Daily Report

Latin America

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NOTICE TO READERS: On 6 May 1991, the DAILY REPORT will begin phasing in new radio and television sourcelines that reflect how a station identifies itself. This change eliminates the "Domestic Service" and "Television Service" designations in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

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Cuba

Workers Union Leader Ross May Day Speech

FL0105211191 Havana Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 1310 GMT 1 May 91

[Speech by Pedro Ross Leal, secretary general of the Cuban Workers Federation and alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, during the main ceremony marking May Day, at Havana's Revolution Square—live]

[Text] Comrade Commander in Chief of the first socialist revolution of America created by the poor for the poor; [applause] founding comrade and president of our free and sovereign state, of a Cuba as it was dreamed of by generations of patriots from Cespedes to Mella; founding comrade and first secretary of our only party, formed as Marti's party to protect and carry on the revolution; dear Comrade Fidel; dear representatives of fraternal union organizations; and other distinguished delegations from our continent and the rest of the world who have come to confirm their solidarity with us against those who want to isolate us; workers; and patriots:

We celebrate 1 May, 102 years after the Chicago epic event which initiated this global movement of admiration and respect for the martyrs who were sacrificed in the bowels of the budding empire of North America as symbols of all the struggles that were to follow in defense of the legitimate rights and hopes of the workers.

The combatant nation that marches in this main ceremony to celebrate International Workers Day is only a part, a representative sample, of the virtual referendum of revolutionary confirmation which millions of Cubans are conducting today in every capital city, in every municipality, in hundreds of towns and villages, across the length and breadth of the country. This formidable demonstration of vitality, enthusiasm, and revolutionary conviction is also a strong slap in the face to the mouthpieces and servants of the enemy, and an example to well-intentioned friends who insist on giving us bad advice. It is also a lesson for the quitters, for the fainthearted who have been scared by the fall of the socialist governments of Europe and think we have no other choice but to surrender.

How can our detractors, those with no faith or trust in our capacity to resist, explain this massive and unequivocal support for the revolution and Fidel by the majority of our people? And how can those who think we are tired and weak, explain that on 3 April, less than a month ago, this square as well as all other squares across the country, were also happily filled by youthful enthusiasm and a convincing reaffirmation of trust in the present and future of the revolution, and committed support to its program, its government, and its historic leadership?

The answer is simple. The people themselves are the main protagonists and means of the revolution, and their historic and current leaders have come from the most heroic, combatant, dedicated, and capable ranks of the people with whom they are united, not formally, but because they share, face, and work toward the same hopes and goals, the same problems and difficulties. The people are the ones who make and defend the revolution in good times as well as in bad times, in times of shortage and in times of abundance, with the experience of 30 years of more successes than failures and with the same youthful enthusiasms of the initial days.

Socialism has meant and will continue to mean to the Cuban worker the only option for national independence. Only a nation that has social justice and whose people are educated, armed, and capable of defending themselves is in control of its destiny. What better example of a true and genuine democracy than this one that we want in its most realistic and profound sense of self- government by and for the vast majority, the one we have obtained and intend to continue to develop and improve with our socialism?

The imperialists' intention is to hide their own failures and show only a display-window of their opulence at the expense of the rest of the world they mercilessly subjugate and exploit. They pretend to give us hypocritical human rights lessons based on bourgeois values. They are capable of criminally massacring a whole nation, of wasting unbelievable wealth in useless and unnecessary weapons, and of satisfying their every fancy and whim. Yet they refuse to give the most basic aid to millions of children who never get to learn to read or write, do not have homes, or die from malnutrition or curable diseases, or are terribly unprotected against epidemics like cholera, which now seems to spread unchecked and add to the misery of the poor of our America.

That is why we will protect our unity, a unity forged in the fight against capitalism and which predates the revolution. A unity that is nowadays more profound and complete because it is no longer the unity of the workers alone, it is now the unity of a whole nation, it is the sacred unity of the fatherland. [applause]

Only the closest and most solid unity among patriots can assure the sacred right to carry on and protect the revolution in the face of a neighbor that is arrogant, powerful, and inebriated with a triumphalism that intends to impose on us its shameful will and the inhumane right to exploit us again. The present Cuban union leaders will never use methods that correspond to the struggle to face rapacious and exploiting capitalism. [sentence as heard] We are the owners of the country. [applause]

It is true that together with our muscles and strong bones, we also have some soft spots. These are those who accommodate themselves, the skeptics, the ones who doubt or want to sow discord, those who are hypercritical and deny our gains, those whose own agendas are more important than the vital priorities of the country, and who many times end up broken in the arms of the

enemy. We are not going to give away what imperialism and the reaction did not achieve in 30 years of attacks. We will struggle in all the fields without giving them any type of respite. As Che used to say: We will not give even this much to the enemy. [applause]

It is true that we have made mistakes. They are precisely the ones we are rectifying in a constant process of perfecting society. This process has unfortunately been conditioned and limited by the adverse external circumstances which have noticeably affected us, especially in the economic area. No one can hold us responsible for the history and the mistakes of others, in addition to ours. According to that absurd reasoning, Cuba should also collapse because those other countries have collapsed. Of course, the tragic crumbling of East Europe and the dramatic uncertainty regarding the confusing destiny of the Soviet Union must unavoidably have a negative influence on our domestic situation. Therefore, it is logical that faced with such tough situations we are going through huge difficulties. They will have a tendency to intensify, at least for a while.

It is important to understand that if these problems we are facing today are not much greater, it is because of the gigantic efforts the country's leadership is making so that the people do not lack essential things. The special period does not indicate in any way the end of our path. To the contrary, its goal is not only to resist and survive but also to continue developing, to find new ways and alternatives to come out of the situation in the shortest period of time and then begin a new and sustained ascent, this time under the surest conditions of true and absolute economic independence. This is our great truth, the one that explains our calmness and optimism, our certainty and confidence in our ability to resist and overcome. [applause]

This is why, dear Fidel, from this historic square and before the cherished Marti statue, as in every corner of Cuba where workers and all the patriotic people are marching and gathering today, we tell the entire world that our socialism will not have to and never will compromise its principles. [applause] To create a multiparty system would be to legalize the fifth column and the counterrevolution at the service of the United States. The essence of capitalist market economy is exploitation and the fiercest inequality. We have a single party such as Marti's party to lead us together through the long revolutionary stage our country is experiencing. We will maintain our programmed, planned, and socialist economy.

As the resources we have become more limited, we will learn how to used them in a more rational and optimal way. If some vital supplies are reduced to zero, it will not catch us unprepared, because we have foreseen and prepared for this situation. Under those more difficult conditions, we will know how to continue to be creative, to find solutions, by working better and better, with more dedication, discipline, and efficiency and by spreading each day to more and more workers the example and spirit of our great contingent that will march at the head of this parade in this square. [applause]

As the situation and the problems we may have to face in the future become more difficult, we will be more level-headed, firmer, calmer, more determined, and courageous, like our Mambi soldiers and our rebel army, like the men who fought in Cuito Cuanavale. [applause] Each Cuban who will march here or elsewhere in Cuba today will carry in their smiles and their raised arms the firm determination that he will know how to say and show at work and school, and in combat, if it is necessary: I am the revolution, I am independence, I am honor, I am dignity, I am strength, I am the victory of the revolution. Go forward Cubans, and Cuba will reward our heroism. Socialism or death! Fatherland or death! We will win! [crowd joins in slogan] [applause]

Castro Holds Talks With Sports Leaders

PA0205031991 Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish 2336 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Dialogue between President Fidel Castro and unidentified leaders of the Executive Committee of the Pan-American Sports Organization, PASO, and PASO President Mario Vazquez Rana at the Revolution Palace in Havana on 25 April; recorded—monitored in progress]

[Text] [Castro] This is how we gained time. We were behind in Santiago. The people of Santiago decided they had to make up for the time that had been lost; now they are among those who have made the most progress. There is still work here to be finished. There is a project that needs more work than others. It is scheduled to be completed 30 May. We are constantly working on it. I am talking about the Polivalente Plaza. This work is scheduled to be completed 30 May.

A special effort has been made regarding swimming pools. There has been ingenuity in this regard. For example, a wall was demolished to speed-up roofing work. I visited the place and promised the workers I would act as their agent. I was there once. I have to go back soon because they have been asking: Where is our agent? He does not come around.

Much progress has been made on the Olympic Villa. I have already explained here that the villa has become an architectural model in Cuba. Yesterday, Wednesday, we had a meeting. We are going to build 43 agricultural communities in Havana Province to produce vegetables and tubers. This will be hard labor, which is what gave rise to slavery in Cuba. The Indians were enslaved first and then the Africans. Immigrants were brought in later.

We are going to build 43 communities, using the Olympic Villa as a model. Yesterday we were looking at the projects, eight of which have been completed. The total size of all these projects will be eight or nine times the size of the Olympic Villa.

[Unidentified speaker] Will these be cooperatives?

[Castro] No, they will be state enterprises. There are many opportunities. There is everything. We have cooperatives also. Cooperatives have been given resources. The cooperatives have done a great deal of building and are still building.

Manual work by individual peasants is required in the tuber sector. In the sugarcane and livestock sectors, we do not have that kind of problem because machines resolved the problem of sugarcane harvesting and because the work involved in the livestock sector is another kind of work: there is electricity and mechanical milking. However, the manual work required to plant, harvest, and transport yucca and sweet potatoes is very hard. The same goes for tomatoes and vegetables in general. Many of those people, the children of the peasants, have been able to study and have become doctors, engineers, and teachers. Therefore, the number of peasants has decreased. We decided to move people from Havana City to the country, and they are moving voluntarily. Some people go for two weeks and some for two years. They are working well. We still need a larger work force, so we decided that the only possible solution is to build communities there. We need many people to work in the country.

As everywhere, there are people who move from the country to the capital, although in Cuba the movement is smaller than in other places. We do not have the situation of Caracas, or Lima, for example. We are not dealing with an exodus, but quite a few people have migrated. Some of those who have come to the capital have housing problems. They have come from such places as Oriente.

The communities we are building are very comfortable. This attracts the people. We are just starting; it will take five years to build all these communities. We are starting with 43. We plan to build some 80 or 100 houses annually because many of the people who have moved there for two years want to stay there and live. This is a definite solution. We are mobilizing people.

They are going to have sports fields. They will surely have a baseball field. I am sorry you have not been able to see one of our baseball field plans. The sports field is going to have an olympic-size swimming pool, without diving platforms, of course.

[Vazquez Rana] Fine, but do so after the games. [laughter]

[Castro] Wait until we use all our potential. To do this, we will use the architectural design of the Villa.

[Vazquez Rana] The Villa's architecture is beautiful. Looking at it from the outside, this looks like what we in Mexico call colonial-style architecture. This complex has, in my opinion, a somewhat high level. When I say high, I do not mean tall; I mean high economic value.

[Castro] They have either two or three rooms. Fifty percent of them have two rooms, and the other 50 percent have three rooms.

[Vazquez Rana] The architectural design is different. The buildings are not all the same. There are many differences.

[Castro] This is very important, and they were built with prefabricated units. The 43 communities will be different. Each has different architecture, as with the Villa. In each community, the buildings are also different.

[Unidentified speaker] How many people will live in each little community?

[Castro] Approximately 400. That is an average because some communities will house 450 and others 350. They will be in the heart of the farm land. Right here where we are standing, I have had to argue a lot in favor of placing them there because there was a tendency to say: this land here is poor, so let us move them there. But I told them: Just think how many thousands of kilometers they will have to walk in a year. We have 24,000 hectares, plus other land in the 43 towns. This amounts to 30,000 hectares. I said: What does it matter if we use 300 hectares out of 30,000 hectares to build communities? We can use one out of every 100 hectares to guarantee that the families live close to the farm land. The towns will be beautiful. I would say they will be good for tourism. There will be swimming pools, and this will help a lot because not everyone will want to go to the beach. Each community will have an olympic-size pool. This will help develop our swimming potential.

We are also introducing something new. By the time the Pan American games comes aroung there there will be almost 500,000 bicycles in Havana.

[Unidentified speaker] [Question indistinct]?

[Castro] No, not in the country. Right now we have 140,000 bicycles in Havana, but when the Pan American Games start there will be approximately 450,000 or 500,000 bicycles in Havana.

[Unidentified speaker] [Question indistinct]?

[Castro] Yes. We offered the North American group some bicycles. They asked us for some bicycles. We told the others that we would provide a bicycle to anyone interested. There will be many bicycles. This comes to my mind because although at this point we have distributed only 150,000 bicycles, on Saturdays and Sundays the highways to the beaches are filled with people on bicycles.

[Unidentified speaker] How do they travel from Havana to the beaches?

[Castro] I do not know how they manage; they are far away. There are at least 10 km more to go, after you pass the Villa...

[Unidentified speaker, interrupting] To get to Santa Maria Beach.

[Unidentified speaker] And the tunnel?

[Castro] We do not have a solution to this yet. One possible solution might be to assign specific hours to use the tunnel. There are two tunnels and two separate lanes, but the cars emit fumes. Bicycles and cars cannot use the tunnel at the same time. You cannot say, lets use one lane for bicycles [30- second break in reception]. This proves what the people can do. They do not worry about riding their bicycles 30 or 35 km. They just go. This bicycle thing has been a revolution. I think we will have it forever. Now everybody wants a bicycle. At first, we were issuing them to factory workers who live 2 to 12 km from their jobs. Some people travel 15 km—and up to 20 km—and get to work earlier than those who take the bus. Those who take buses have to wait for buses. The others move faster.

[Unidentified speaker] I do not have the slightest idea about this, so I am just asking: The Villa is in a good location—as far as distance goes—but the distance from the farthest point of the Villa to the stadium, for example, is no easy walk. Would it be possible to have bicyles around the Villa? I have one that I could use and I would leave it somewhere.

[Castro] That is a good idea.

[Unidentified speaker] No one would steal the bicycles.

[Vazquez Rana] ...To ride a bicycle when it is over 30 degrees [centigrade]?

[Unidentified speaker] It would be worse to have to walk.

[Vazquez Rana] In the Villa?

[Unidentified speaker] No, no, not at the Olympic Villa. I did not say that the current methods should be replaced. I think they are efficient and good.

[Castro] The Villa is a revolution in architectural design, and it was unexpected. There has been a revolution in the construction of the Villa and in the architecture of the houses. We know that there will be (?a new era)—before and after the games.

[Vasquez Rana] I said precisely this in a speech. You have combined serviceability and aesthetics. Architecture has played a basic role because it is not only a matter of having a house; you must feel comfortable and the house must look comfortable. That is the important thing and that is what has been achieved there. A beautiful harmony in the lack of harmony...

[Castro, interrupting] We will deliver a bit more. Seventy percent goes to the construction teams, meaning the minibrigades, and 30 percent goes to the state. We will combine the state's assets with the small hotel. This affects the interests of the people [words indistinct] but we will combine the small hotel with the buildings closest to it. Approximately 450 rooms will go to the state, so we will combine them with the hotel and will have 1,200 rooms for sports events and other events.

Those who are given rooms will have to make a pledge. First we wanted to leave everything intact for national and international tourism, but we saw later that the people in charge of the construction—the minibrigades—were full of illusions. We should have made houses for them elsewhere, but we said: We will give them what belongs to them. They—the ones who have been in charge of the construction—should get over 1,000 housing units. But we plan to state in the contract—that is why they are chosen through the work centers—that if the installations are needed at any given moment, they will have to be returned [words indistinct]. They will obviously be better off because they will get new furniture, but if there is an event that requires use of the Villa, we will be able to use the Villa again. At least one-third of the apartments will become international and national tourist lodgings. It is simply a matter of taking 450 of the 1,400-odd apartments we have there.

[Vasquez Rana] In other words, one-third of what already exists in the villa.

[Castro] Yes, that is what goes to the state because the state....[changes thought] prior to the agreements, the state got 40 percent because the state provides the materials, the land, everything. The state provides everything.

[Vasquez Rana] The workers provide the labor.

[Castro] They provide the labor and the salary is paid by the state. [Words indistinct] [Castro laughs]

[Vasquez Rana] The state gets 30 percent of what is built.

[Castro] There are other people who cannot build there. A doctor, surgeon, teacher—those people cannot build there—but we have increased what we give them to 80 percent, except for the highrises and the Villa. We have given them 70 percent in the Villa, so now they will get more housing units. We have given them a higher percentage in recent months, but we had to cut the figure because of the problems we have had with fuel, energy, cement production, and housing construction. We have given them a higher percentage.

Today, one of our buildings....[changes thought] many people who worked there will not be living on the premises because there have been mobilizations every weekend, and thousands of people have helped. Nevertheless, certain groups began work and they have the right to seven out of every 10 housing units. The state gets the others but does not keep them. The state distributes them or has the right to distribute them. The workers distribute the other 10....[corrects himself] the other seven among themselves once the work is done. They say: This one goes to that worker, this one to the other, etc. They distribute them among themselves. The

state distributes the other part, but in this case we will not distribute them. No one is affected because none of them are pledged, and we have one-third of the Olympic Villa left. It will be turned into hotels with apartments. Of course, we will have to build a restaurant there, because the hotel restaurant will not be sufficient. It will be a restaurant for those who do not wish to cook. The Villa includes installations for everything: a school, child care centers, a big kitchen that can be used as a cafeteria. Everything was planned to include schools and everything else. It will be necessary to enlarge the schools, but we will be able to expand the installations because there is land available between all the hotels. Also, the parking lot is presumably big enough to build a large hotel with 300 rooms. Once the Olympic Villa is vacated, we will have 1,200 rooms for tourism, but if there is an event....

[Vasquez Rana, interrupting] The Olympic Games.

[Castro] The Central American games, whatever. There will be no need to build another Villa, repair the installations, or do maintenance on the installations; the people have the right to use them. The people now have many facilities and did not spend a cent. In fact [Castro chuckles] they earned a salary while they worked. The thing is that there were not enough workers and they were given....[changes thought] this is a movement that we created to encourage the construction of houses, but the contract must specify [that the government has] the right to use their houses in case of an event requiring the use of the houses.

You have to say: Well, here is the Olympic Villa and it must have new furniture and everything else in a month. When the people return....[changes thought] the people receive furnished housing units, including the furniture that is used by the state.

[Vasquez Rana] Are the top floors assigned to younger people and the first floor to older people?

[Castro] The older people should be given the top floors because they need the exercise. [laughter] The young people do not need the exercise.

[Vasquez Rana] No, they do not! [words indistinct] [laughter]

[Unidentified speaker] Send them to 23d Street. [laughter]

[Castro] Well, I said that Mario's [Vasquez Rana] visits have helped us very much. I must be honest. He helped us maintain the necessary pace. He told us when something was behind or on schedule. The simplest problems sometimes caused conflicts; the project overseer argued with the construction teams, etc.

[Vasquez Rana] That is terrible.

[Castro] One would say: This beam goes like this. The other would say: No, the beam goes like this! Once a conflict arose, everything would be delayed.

[Vasquez Rana] There was no swimming pool 60 days ago. When I saw it yesterday....[changes thought] I think it is still behind schedule, but I leave in a happier mood. When I saw it yesterday, I could not believe it. [Name indistinct] went to visit it instead of having lunch, and he told me: Mario, it is behind schedule. [Words indistinct].

[Castro] I recently met with....with how many North Americans?

[Unidentified speaker] Ninety-eight.

[Castro] They came here. Almost all the sports directors were here in a room downstairs because they did not fit here. I met with them and they were very amiable. They were very enthusiastic and they praised the installations. In fact, they invited me to attend each one of the games. I said: I do not know. [laughs] I may have to see some of them on television. The bowling director wanted me to be there when the bowling event was inaugurated; the one in charge of the cycling events also wants me to be there. I will see what I can do. I will have to be at the service of sports during those days.

[Vasquez Rana] We had a problem with the inauguration because there is an alternate site. An inauguration is made the next day at the alternate site. The question we have is: Will you be there?

[Castro] The organizers have not said anything about this to me. [laughter] I am willing to fully cooperate; I am at the full time service of the Pan-American Games.

[Unidentified speaker] They have forgotten [to tell] you. [laughter]

[Castro] Santiago is very nice. Some of the events are very interesting but one cannot go from one place to another every day.

[Vasquez Rana] I think that, more than for the sake of a sports event, your presence in Santiago would represent support for the people who have worked hard and exerted themselves. I want to tell you that I want you to go, I would love to see you go.

[Castro] [Words indistinct] two inaugurations?

[Unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct]

[Vasquez Rana] There is an official inauguration and the opening ceremony, so to speak, in Santiago. We must give them a chance to do something, but we cannot call it an inauguration.

[Castro] Of course, it is not an inauguration.

[Vasquez Rana] I think...

[Castro, interrupting] A ceremony.

[Vasquez Rana] Yes, a ceremony.

[Castro] A ceremony will be held in Santiago.

[Vasquez Rana] I think your presence there would greatly encourage the people because we know Santiago was behind schedule—I was afraid to go there—and suddenly they solved everything better than here in Havana. I think it was a problem with the local people. [laughter]

[Castro] [Words indistinct]. [laughter]

[Vasquez Rana] Are you provoking me again? [laughter]

[Castro] Your battle now is...

[Unidentified speaker, interrupting] I think that his battle is at the [name indistinct] square, where, we admit, the swimming pool is being built at a steady pace. He has accurately said that the pace is such that it will be finished before 30 May. We have no doubt about this. The hardest work has to be carried out at the [name indistinct] square to finish it by 30 May. Santiago has also been working at a tremendous pace and it is no longer a problem.

[Castro] I visited the construction site in Santiago. A hotel is also being built there. I do not know if this hotel will be ready for the Pan-American Games?

[Unidentified speaker] It will be ready in June.

[Castro] In June. It has a theater too.

[Vasquez Rana] I believe [words indistinct] Santiago in late May.

[Castro] Will the theater be ready too?

[Unidentified speaker] Also in June.

[Castro] (?For) the Pan-American Games?

[Unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] Santiago residents will shine because they will put to use all those facilities that they have been working on during the party's congress. They will have finished all those facilities by then. I do not know whether construction of the Tropicana of Santiago has been finished. They have been busy with other works for other events. They also built an olympic villa and a building there. They also built the ones in Havana. I learned about all the things they have done later. We used the pretext of the Pan-American Games and you know all the things that involve the sports federations and sports organizations.

One day, that dam will be ready. But as I said, that is a borrowed dam. They built facilities and now the dam must permanently remain there. The dam is here and there are plans to build dams higher up. Some will be built higher up and others lower down to take advantage of the water. The dams built for agricultural purposes cannot be used anymore because they are permanently used for sports. However, since there is surplus water, we decided to store the extra water up there or open the dam to let the water out. How can we use the water for agriculture? We must now invest in dams again. They made investments [words indistinct] we cannot dismantle those facilities; we cannot use the water for agriculture. They had borrowed the dam [words indistinct].

[Unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] They wanted the hotel that was there. We had offered to discuss [words indistinct], because it was advisable to turn the hotel into the center as we incorporated the housing units. But the hotel is equivalent to nearly two Havana Libre Hotels.

[Unidentified speaker] How many rooms does the Havana Libre have?

[Castro] What?

[Unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] There are 1,200 rooms. We can also use them for sports events. We could also use the gymnasium for tourism. We will collect funds. We will begin to collect after the... [laughter] [changes thought] (?not from) television transmission rights. But we will collect funds. In a relatively short period of time we will recover the foreign exchange invested. This can be accomplished by investing a third; the state spends 30 percent and the hotel is used for tourism. We would recover our expenditures this way.

[Unidentified speaker] During the meeting other interesting aspects of the games were discussed, including the antidoping laboratory.

[Vasquez Rana] I believe we can all feel proud of the way in which the agreement that we signed with the [word indistinct] has been handled. It will be the most complete antidoping equipment ever used in any games. Manned by very capable people, a Barcelona laboratory will handle the Olympic Games. A Mexican laboratory handled the Central American and Caribbean Games.

The two have a lot of experience. We must recognize the help and support given us by President Samaranch. If it had not been for his help we would be facing problems at this time. Samaranch, the prince of (Merode), and [words indistinct]. The two want to host the winter games.

[Unidentified speaker] What about Spain and the United States?

[Vasquez Rana] The two have burdens. One has the burden of Barcelona and the other the burden of Atlanta. However, both of them are working very well. I hope that the best one will come out on top. I like very much to talk about host cities, but we need people who really want the Olympic or Continental Games to win the right to host them. Requests to host the games should not be based on business purposes or on many other reasons that we have

noticed lately. The games must be viewed with a different philosophy. I hope we will see beyond business at the Pan-American Games.

[Castro] We must take advantage of the factors I told you about; for example...[changes thought] Not only will the facilities remain for posterity, but certain construction concepts will also remain; this will be known as the Pan-American construction style. A revolution in architectural concept.

We have learned much. With our diverse manufacturing plants we could make a great combination of materialss; materials that add beauty and quality to things. The stadium could be enlarged. Outsiders do not understand this. They say the stadium lacks certain things, that the stadium...(changes thought], but it is ready to be enlarged. This could happen any time. I like the velodrome very much. It is very, very pretty.

[Unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct] housing at the velodrome?

[Unidentified speakers] [Passage indistinct]

[Castro] We can house the people there; we can house them in the hotel and even at the Olympic Villa. For smaller competitions we will have a hundred or hundreds of housing units available, as the need may arise. We will not only have the facilities, but housing facilities for all kinds of events.

[Unidentified speakers] [Passage indistinct]

[Castro] [Words indistinct] the people because of the large number of bicycles that will be in Havana.

[Vasquez Rana] I believe, Mr. President—and I have mentioned this to you before—that Cuba, with its facilities, for example, its swimming facilities, will improve the level of competition considerably. The same with the velodrome and many other facilities that have (?been rather poor) in Cuba. Also in bowling.

[Unidentified speakers] [Passage indistinct]

[Vasquez Rana] The bowling facility will become a downtown recreation center. Are there 16?

[Unidentified speaker] Thirty-four [words indistinct].

[Castro] I am pleased about that. All this is very encouraging for us. We commit ourselves to doing even more between now and the beginning of the games to please everyone.

Castro Meets With Iranian Deputy President

FL0105124991 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, held a meeting yesterday with the Iranian delegation headed by Reza Amrollahi, deputy president of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and deputy president of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, and other Iranian Government officials. Various subjects of common interest to the two countries were discussed in the meeting which was held in a friendly atmosphere.

Sayyed Mohammad Sadri Taba'i, Iranian ambassador to Cuba, and Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, executive secretary of the Atomic Energy Commission of Cuba, were also present at the meeting.

Juragua Nuclear Plant Visited

FL0105220291 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] The Iranian deputy president [for atomic energy], who is visiting our country, today toured the facilities of the Cienfuegos nuclear power plant. Mr. Amrollahi described as very favorable the prospects for cooperation between Cuba and Iran in the field of nuclear power for peaceful uses during his visit to the Juragua Nuclear Power Plant in Cienfuegos Province. Before beginning the tour, His Excellency Mr. Amrollahi, accompanied by Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, executive secretary of the Cuban Atomic Energy Commission, received an explanation of the construction works and buildings at the plant, and expressed special interest in the safety measures in case of earthquakes, and foundation levels. On their return, the delegation also visited the oil refinery, another of the great industries being built in Cienfuegos Province.

Commentary on 'Positive' Salvadoran Talks

PA0105202891 Havana International Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Apr 91

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] Another round of talks between representatives of the Salvadoran guerrillas and government ended in Mexico City with agreements that could start the still-long journey toward peace. Perhaps due to the difficult matters discussed and the predisposition of government delegates to adopt a more flexible position, this was the longest round of talks held so far. There were also moments of great tension and crisis that apparently disappeared later on.

According to Alvaro de Soto, special envoy of the UN secretary general to the talks, agreements were reached on modifications to the Constitution, Armed Forces, judicial and electoral systems, and human rights. On the latter point, it was agreed to create a verification commission called the Commission of Truth, which will be in charge of investigating violations of human rights in the country.

Alvaro de Soto also confirmed that the implementation of the agreements reached during this meeting will be discussed at the next round of talks to be held in May, during which a cease-fire will also be discussed.

Commander Jorge Shafik Handal, who headed the rebel delegation to the dialogue in Mexico City, said that although the results were partial, the peace negotiations are irreversible. Apparently the talks have entered a concrete phase toward attaining peace in El Salvador. The next round of talks will show if the agreements are possible and if there is real political willingness in President Alfredo Cristiani's government to end the conflict.

It is also true that as long as the problems that caused the war are not solved, any peace effort would have very few chances of survival. However, if anything can be described as positive in the talks, it is the discussion and analysis of a number of [word indistinct] that could lead to important agreements.

The Salvadoran conflict has lasted more than 10 years and has claimed more than 70,000 victims. The war itself is devastating, especially for peasants, who see the Army as their main enemy because of its constant harassment. In addition, the talks have shown that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] is a force that must be taken into account, a belligerent force that is capable of facing any army with courage and determination, even if that army is equipped and supported by the United States.

In addition, for a long time the most important sectors of Salvadoran society have been pressuring the government to find a coherent solution to the conflict, a political solution that should not be delayed any longer. Hopefully, the next round of talks will make it possible to say that peace in that nation is not far away.

'Economic' Vice 'Political Dissidents' Viewed

FL0105124691 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 May 91

[Lazaro Barredo commentary]

[Text] A controversy has surfaced in the United States after State Department officials characterized Cuban immigration as essentially an economic one. Of course, those statements have not pleased the anti-Cuban policies' clique. It is against its approach of perverted ideology which attempts to distort our realities with the image of political dissidence. This revelation characterizes the so-called exodus because, historically, economic emigration toward the United States has been a natural process in this region only that in Cuba's case it was motivated by the most stellar plans for propaganda purposes.

I do not believe that people with little common sense work at the Florida Immigration Service. Surely, there are sensible people there and if they are honest they could recount numerous anecdotes about the Cuban people they have interviewed throughout these years in which can be clearly shown that the vast majority of our so-called ideological traitors are no other than culinary [culinarios—play of words] traitors.

Certainly, most of the Cubans' strains at this time are motivated by economic difficulties. However, Cuba is not an extraterrestrial country. How is it not going to have them if in such an unequal world as this one Cuba has also been maintaining an unprecedented situation for refusing to admit to the servitude of the arrogant policies of the U.S. administrations? Added to this are our trade difficulties with the former European socialist community and the Soviet Union.

I do not know how someone could interpret these matters unusual if large U.S. concerns are going through difficulties that are worse than ours. At this time, the IMF's Development Committee and the World Bank are promoting studies on what to do to negotiate with the seven capitalist superpowers and face the serious problems from the lack of financial flow to the Third World, where the crisis is truly distressing and without a foreseeable solution. It is annoying to see how even in the middle of this situation, when this country promotes its openness in the domestic and foreign area, its intentions are misinterpreted. This holds in the case of its migration policies, the solution to religious problems, its ideas of integration, or joint enterprise businesses. The merit of giving a lesson even in this difficult situation on how with a social justice policy the most serious problems can be dealt with, is disregarded.

For example, one of the anti-Cuban campaigns states that malnutrition among expectant mothers is widespread here, that children are born with rickets, and that childhood diseases ravage families. Such slandererous remarks are not worth commenting on.

Nevertheless, not even a zero option will have an apocalyptic shade for Cubans because, even though it may sound like a tongue twister, we are preparing for the worse. When the national consciousness prepares for the worse, the worst will never be as bad as one imagined. Without a lot of fuss we are working on priorities which will place us on the road to solving material difficulties. It is a shame that they do not want to see how the famished Cubans are enjoying good health. Tomorrow we will cover the streets of the main Cuban cities en mass with the comforting joy that the most precious nourishment for humankind, and which has no substitute, is freedom.

It is yet to be seen if all those culinary people over there can say the same thing.

WFTU Opens Regional Office in Havana

FL0205010491 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] The first regional center of the World Federation of Trade Unions [WFTU] was opened today in Havana. With the presence of Pedro Ross Leal, secretary general of the Cuban Workers Federation [CTC], and WFTU Secretary General Mr. Aleksander Zharikov, this center, located at First and 32d in Playa Municipality, was

opened. The foreign delegations invited to the 1 May celebrations visited this house of Latin American and Caribbean workers.

[Begin recording] [Ross] Without a doubt, today has been a day of double happiness. We are opening our house, and we have witnessed a demonstration of the joy, revolutionary ardor, and commitment of a people that has come out into the streets to support the CTC, the government, the party, and the revolution.

[Zharikov, in English] It is a great manifestation of all the Cuban people, a manifestation of devotion to their national cause, to their freedom, and to the cause of international workers solidarity. [end recording]

The 12th WFTU Congress, which was held in November in Moscow, agreed to create regional centers on each continent to make the organization more professional and bring it closer to the workers. This is the first to be opened. The main function of the regional office for America is to be the site of meetings of regional union organizations, but also in its different areas the countries' unions will offer activities for their outstanding and vanguard workers.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Yemen

FL0105220591 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] The eighth session of the Cuba-Yemen Intergovernmental Joint Commission concluded today in Havana with the signing of a cooperation agreement. The document was signed by Cuban Minister of the Fishing Industry Jorge Fernandez Cuervo and Yemeni Public Health Minister Mr. Muhammad 'Ali Muqbil, who is heading his country's delegation. For more than 15 years, Cuban health workers have been providing aid in Yemen. It is expected that this cooperation will be expanded.

The document, which will be in effect until 1993, also includes the sending of specialists in other fields, such as education, fishing, and sports. Exchanges of information and delegations will also take place to promote bilateral trade. During the talks, the Yemeni delegation expressed interest in purchasing high-technology medical equipment in Cuba. Mr. 'Ali Muqbil expressed his satisfaction with the results of the meeting, which places relations between the two countries on a higher level.

Workers Demonstrations in Moscow, Berlin Noted

FL0105213691 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Unity, solidarity, and workers rights were the main slogans upheld in Red Square in Moscow today. President Mikhail Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders witnessed the first demonstration for Workers Day organized totally by the unions. The speakers who viewed the parade all agreed on supporting the urgent crisis program backed by Gorbachev and his main rival, Russian Parliament member Boris Yeltsin. This support covers the abrogation of an income tax law, compensation to sectors especially hurt by the rise in the cost of living, a special regime for basic industry, and an end to the politically motivated strikes. The union leaders asked for actions that would improve the people's living standard and defend them from the consequences of the transition to a market economy.

The first commemoration of 1 May in a united Berlin today brought together about 7,000 people. The demonstrators demanded of the Helmut Kohl government an immediate jobs program to counteract the growing unemployment of workers in the former GDR. According to the regional office of the German union confederation, there are currently more than 170,000 Berlin residents without work.

Barbados

Ministry Releases Unemployment Statistics

FL0105223091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2117 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 1, CANA—Unemployment in Barbados, based on data from a continuous household sample survey by the government, stood at 14.7 percent in the last quarter of 1990, up from 13.7 percent in the corresponding period the year before. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs said an estimated 106,400 persons were employed during the last quarter of 1990, with 23,600 workers in the services sector and 18,000 workers in the clerical and related workers sector. Some 11,000 professional and technical persons were employed during the quarter.

Of the 186,100 persons recorded in the adult population, 124,800 persons were in the labour force. Of the total labour force, 18,400 persons were unemployed. Male unemployment represented 8.0 per cent, up from 7.0 per cent in the last quarter of 1989. Female unemployment was 11.5 per cent, the same rate as recorded a year ago.

Haiti

Aristide Receives Peasants, Hears Demands

FL0105175491 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Peasant delegations have been received at the National Palace. Those delegations have informed President Aristide of their grievances.

On Thursday afternoon, the Aristide-Preval government spent several hours listening to the complaints of the Haitian peasantry. It was in a party atmosphere where more than 120 delegates, representing peasants from all corners of the country, voiced the problems faced by the peasants. The major complaints were directed against the Haitian Army. They stated that the current Army,

working now with the president, is the same Army which participated in several massacres, such as the Saint-Jean-Bosco massacre, the one in November 1987, the one in Jean-Rabel and so on.... In addition, the peasants spoke about the high cost of living, agriculture, health, education, wrongful distribution of state lands, problems with landowners and other demands.

One point on which all peasants unanimously agreed, is the case of the chiefs of sectors. Evidence was presented which proves chiefs of sectors have stolen cows and goats, not to mention making other demands, and the peasants said that the chiefs' are no longer needed as they once might have been. [passage omitted].

Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, coordinator of the Papaye Congress National Peasant Movement [MPNKP] listed several priorities for the peasants that the government should take into consideration right now. In the claims notebook that Chavannes brought to the government, he had written recommendations for all ministers. He also recognized that the government could not satisfy all demands at the same time and stated that the peasants could no longer survive. According to him, this sector has always been neglected by all governments. [passage omitted].

The Haitian president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, assured the peasants that studies are being done in order to improve their lives. According to Aristide, if macoutes were not trying to destabilize the government by setting fires in the public market, some projects would have already been carried out for the peasants. One of the promises made by the president concerned farming equipment, but he noted that he could not drop the prices of those tools because of the interests of those who sell the equipment. The president let it be known that he was negotiating with the business sector and added the possibility for the government to buy farming equipment and resell it to the peasants at a lower price. Regarding creole pigs, Jean-Bertrand Aristide said that before 7 February, on his way to France, he spoke about the creole pigs in Guadeloupe and would continue working on that matter. Concerning the state lands, the president said that he would take them away from landowners and give them to the poor peasants, as the Constitution provides.

Costa Rica

Calderon Delivers State of Nation Address

PA0205022991 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2207 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] San Jose, 1 May (NOTIMEX)—During his first state of the nation address delivered this afternoon, President Rafael Angel Calderon stressed that Costa Rica promotes the Central American peace process and economic integration of the region. In his speech before the Legislative Assembly, the president said that Costa Rica's foreign affairs are an extension of the country's domestic policy, which is marked by social and economic development. In his speech Calderon encouraged talks in El Salvador and Guatemala and Panama's economic integration into Central America. He also mentioned the agreements reached during the Tuxtla Gutierrez regional summit in January. "We boosted the Central American peace process and we worked to give new meaning to the talks among presidents, among foreign ministers, and among officials of the various governments," Calderon said.

The Costa Rican president added that "the freely chosen governments of Central America must not believe that regional diplomatic efforts have ended." He also added that this new regional picture must be viewed as "the starting point of a joint comprehensive effort to consolidate and strengthen democracy in all its phases." Calderon stated that peace in Central America will only be attained "through talks and the integration of unconventional movements in civilian life." President Calderon said that Costa Rica believes that the "consolidation of peace and democracy in Central America calls for a strong effort to reactivate the economy of the region, and that effort is only possible within the framework of integration." The president urged "Panama to more actively join the process of Central American integration."

Calderon also mentioned "the firm Latin American course of the country's diplomacy, which is primarily directed at relations with the countries of the Group of Three—Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela." In this regard, Calderon said that "the Tuxtla Gutierrez presidential summit embodied new outlooks for economic and political cooperation between Central America and the Group of Three." The president made special mention of the new opportunities for cooperation "with regard to the balanced and gradual process of commercial and economic integration between Mexico and Central America." Calderon talked about the changes made to the country's trade policy. These changes eliminate "protectionism" and open the path to the consolidation of the countries of the area "into a single block of national markets."

New markets for exports were sought "and ties of friendship with our neighbors were strengthened" during the meeting of the Central American and Mexican presidents in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Calderon added. Along these lines, the president said that "it is probable that by September we will have drafted a complementary economic agreement between our countries (of Central America)," which also seeks greater rapprochement with Colombia and Venezuela.

The president said that the foreign policy efforts are in agreement with those being made domestically to overcome the fiscal deficit. Calderon said that the efforts are designed to lower the gross national product to 0.5 percent this year. "The general goal of my administration's economic, social, and political efforts is to lower the rate of poverty. A large sector of the Costa Rican population is affected by poverty," Calderon added.

President Calderon said that "by improving the country's finances, an explosive situation has been avoided." Calderon announced a reduction in the public sector payroll and the implementation of "a national plan to create employment." The goal of the plan is to create 200,000 jobs in the private sector through 1994. With regard to the trade balance, the president reported that during his year in office, Costa Rica's exports increased by eight percent and imports dropped by 32 percent, compared to 1990.

Even though Mexico and Venezuela have assured the country that the supply of fuel will continue, Calderon said that a strong reduction in the consumption of fuel is necessary and this must be done "with strict conservation measures."

Calderon said that within a very short period of time, Costa Rica has suffered "the lashings of Hurricane Joan, the wave of tremors in the area of Puriscal, the 22 December earthquake, and the 22 April earthquake" and this calls for more work from all Costa Ricans. "These tragedies, together with the grief they brought, gave us the opportunity to prove that the Costa Ricans are a people who grow in the face of adversity," the president said.

President Calderon thanked the Costa Rican people for their solidarity during these moments of anguish and he also thanked "the international community for its overwhelming generosity."

Mentions Narcotics Problem

PA0205025091 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2329 GMT 1 May 91

[Excerpt] San Jose, 1 May (DPA)—Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon today called for the struggle against drug trafficking to be waged jointly by all governments. "Drug trafficking is a worldwide problem, and for this reason the struggle should be waged jointly by all governments," the president said today during his first state of the nation address to the Legislative Assembly.

In his speech, the president defended the economic adjustment plan implemented in June 1990 and the commitments made with the IMF (drastic reduction of the fiscal deficit, increase in public service rates and

prices of basic products, among other things). These measures, as well as the agreements with the IMF, were harshly criticized by the labor unions during today's May Day celebrations.

On the topic of drug trafficking, Calderon said that the Government Ministry is organizing a meeting with representatives of the EEC and the developed countries to "draft an overall plan to confront the problem." Calderon added that the plan must include "efficient measures" to struggle against the production, trafficking, sale, and use of drugs, and that it must become "a real barrier to prevent drug money laundering operations." The president added that "we plan to prevent Central America and the Caribbean from being used as a bridge for the illegal trafficking of drugs to Europe and North America." [passage omitted]

El Salvador

Legislative Assembly 'Surprisingly' Meets Again

PA0105043091 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0306 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] The Legislative Assembly suprisingly began another plenary meeting this afternoon to study ways to amend one of the constitutional amendments approved last night. The article under debate deals with the fourth member of the new electoral court, who must be a member of Democratic Convergence, based on an agreement made at the negotiating table.

CD's Zamora Views Amendments

PA0105202791 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] The Democratic Convergence [CD], a coalition of leftist parties, has reiterated its willingness to ratify some of the constitutional amendments that were approved by the outgoing Legislative Assembly and must be ratified by the new Assembly.

CD Deputy Ruben Zamora said that the CD will not ratify all the amendments on the electoral and judicial systems. However, he noted the coalition's willingness to endorse agreements on human rights and the creation of the National Civil Police.

President Cristiani on Agreements With FMLN

PA0105044091 San Salvador Radio and Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 1 May 91

[Speech by President Alfredo Cristiani in San Salvador—live]

[Text] Salvadoran people: This evening we would like to comment on what have been called the Mexico accords, the result of more than three weeks of hard work within the peace process in Mexico City. The peace process has culminated in a series of agreements, particularly on a topic that had been recently discussed at length in our country. It is the agreement on constitutional amendments that the Legislative Assembly analyzed and approved yesterday.

The issue of constitutional amendments, as we have been able to perceive in the heated debates that have occurred in our country, was certainly one of the most worrisome topics for the Salvadoran people. It was an issue that worried anyone who did not know about the intimate details of the process or how the meeting was coming along in Mexico City and it resulted in a number of questions that have been openly discussed.

We have achieved an agreement that, in my opinion, is the most important step ever taken in El Salvador to attain what we all hope for—peace. The Mexico accords, which deals with the constitutional amendments, includes four basic points. If we analyze the agreements as such, we will see that they all have a goal, and it is one of the most important goals stated in the Geneva Accords in April 1990—the consolidation of our democratic process so that peace can bring about a process in which all the Salvadoran people may live in tranquillity, with the freedom that democracy grants us, and so that public and private institutions may become the instruments to protect the democratic process.

Thus, that was the goal of the amendments, and the four points that were discussed—the Armed Forces, judicial system, human rights, and electoral system. We would like the Salvadoran people to analyze the amendments and decide if they will actually strengthen the process that the Salvadoran people have said they want—many times and at the sake of many sacrifices—to achieve freedom within a democratic process.

In the case of the Armed Forces, there are two basic elements in the constitutional amendments concerning the institution. The first is the reorganization of the Armed Forces so that it may become an institution for peace when peace is achieved in the country. In other words, our Armed Forces are currently organized to serve the people by defending them within the conflict which has prevailed in our country, but it is logical that once the conflict has ended, the Armed Forces will become an institution for peace.

Consequently, it can be surmised that the public security corps will be part of a civilian ministry in the future, once peace is achieved. In other words, they will not be part of the defense ministry but rather of another ministry that does not have the characteristic of a national defense ministry, thus separating the national defense and public security sectors. There is another essential issue. The Armed Forces, as a democratic institution, must respond to the process by being subordinated to a civilian power; that is, the sovereign power elected by the Salvadoran people.

Referring to this, Salvadoran people, I would like to comment that the Armed Forces is an institution that is currently proving its democratic vocation, an institution that, even though it is fulfilling its constitutional duty of

protecting the people from an aggression, has taken specific professional steps to become an institution at the service of the nation and our democratic process. I do not want to waste the opportunity to congratulate the Armed Forces as an institution and its members for their contribution to the future of El Salvador, the future of all of us—particularly the younger people.

Second, I would like to talk about the judicial system. This is another point that was extensively discussed, particularly the part about improving the management of justice in our country. We have seen throughout the years that the management of justice does not fully fulfill its function. It is not a matter that the management of justice only involves human errors; it also has structural problems that we tried to solve today through the amendments.

Referring to this, one of the most important amendments is that the Supreme Court of Justice members will be elected by a consensus. They must be approved by two thirds of the legislative assembly members. Their term has been extended to give the Supreme Court of Justice more stability; it will have a mechanism that will allow its renewal every three years. Thus, the Supreme Court of Justice will evolve with the Salvadoran process.

A very small article is perhaps the most essential issue. It is always said that the judicial branch is the country's Cinderella concerning budget matters; that the judicial branch is always the last one in line, waiting to find out what resources it will be given to fulfill it constitutional mission. We are now able to strengthen the judicial branch's independence by granting it—through the Constitution—the minimum resources needed to fulfill its mission. Therefore, it has been granted a percentage of the Salvadoran Government's general revenues so it may have enough to fulfill the people's hopes for justice in the country.

In the case of the electoral process, I have also sought to give stability to the Central Electoral Council by turning it into a tribunal and giving it the status of highest authority in electoral issues; and by giving it independence from the other state branches when dealing with electoral issues. It will also be organized in such a way that... [changes thought] It will not only be organized in a partisan way but also with the participation of independent—if the word may be used—persons or people who are not directly involved in the country's political activities.

Nevertheless, I would like to add something on this topic. No agreement was possible in Mexico City concerning the organization of the Central Electoral Council, i.e., the new Supreme Electoral Tribunal, and the amount of members [42-second break in reception] Mexico Accord we expect the necessary flexibility to fulfill all the demands—or at least clear all the doubts of the sectors that should participate in politics. I specifically refer to the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. We must exert ourselves to the utmost so the FMLN may trust our country's electoral process, and so it will not have an excuse to abstain from the process.

It is also necessary to issue an appeal to the FMLN. Certainly, we cannot deny that a country's political parties also have the right to decide about their future. Even though the Legislative Assembly did not approve the Mexico declaration without changing the text, we also ask the FMLN to reflect and see that what was approved by the Legislative Assembly is not reason enough to cause problems. Far from it, I think that the Legislative Assembly deputies proved yesterday their high civic and patriotic fervor by approving the essential contents of the accords.

Of course, they had analyzed the constitutional amendments on these four topics on several occasions and, by the way, we believe that what was approved by the political parties and what was agreed between the government and the FMLN in Mexico City are quite similar. We can thus surmise that there is a broad consensus, in general terms, about the road on which we want to seek the country's future.

There is another thing. This is an important topic concerning constitutional amendments, meaning the creation of a new attorney general—the attorney general for human rights. We believe that respect for civic freedom and rights must be the cornerstone of every democratic process. What better way than the Constitution to raise the defense of the Salvadoran people's civic rights to a level where it is possible to act, a level where it is separated from politics? Human rights in our country should not be politicized, and we must all be convinced that we have rights and duties that we must respect, and that others must respect; and there must be someone to guarantee the enforcement of those rights.

Friends, these are the agreements in general terms, meaning the contents of the agreements that were reached in Mexico City. I repeat what we said on another occasion: Our goal is to seek the consolidation of our democratic process and that is exactly what the government of the Republic seeks through the peace process. The democratic process will grant all the sectors of the country the opportunities that our legal system offers to participate in politics and later become the force that progressively forges the future of our homeland.

Nevertheless, the debates have also allowed us to learn about different worries, questions, and doubts that some groups in our country have.

The first thing is the part on... [changes thought] It was said that the Mexico meeting should end with a cease-fire, something that has been so long awaited by all of us, but we are merely bringing an agreement on constitutional amendments that does not mention a cease-fire. I would like to clearly explain what happened. When the latest round of talks began in Mexico, we talked of reaching an overall agreement that would involve three

topics: the constitutional amendments—which has been processed—the Armed Forces, and the cease-fire.

There was something we did have to take advantage of, however. Two legislative assemblies are necessary in order to amend the Constitution, and we had to take advantage of the current legislative assembly to start the process to amend the Constitution. Considering how delicate the topic is, we decided in Mexico to give priority to the topic of the constitutional amendment so that we can end in time and allow the current legislative assembly to begin the amendment process.

The process will be continued in the near future until we reach an agreement on those two topics, namely, the topics of the Armed Forces and the cease-fire. The only thing we have done on the matter of the Constitution is to begin the process. Things are ready so the next Assembly, which is to be installed tomorrow, can ratify calmly what this Legislative Assembly has approved, and thus abide by Article 248 of the Constitution.

We also believe that the process to ratify the constitutional amendments, to be undertaken by the upcoming Assembly, must not forget that this is part of an overall agreement, and that the overall agreement includes the cease-fire. Thus, the Assembly must create the necessary opportunity so the process will continue until it culminates in a cease-fire, or until we eliminate—or at least taken the first step to eliminate—violence in El Salvador.

In this respect, the ratification process must take this factor into consideration. It must wait a little until the process yields agreements on those two topics, but chiefly on the cease-fire topic.

Thus, this does not mean the initial agreement or objective of the meeting was changed, or that we are coming up short on the agreements. Simply, this Assembly had a peremptory deadline, and we had to take advantage of it. The talks will continue in May to achieve a cease-fire.

There has also been some criticism, and it is good to clarify it. It is said that the constitutional amendments have been rushed through without much thought to them. It is possible that the process may have gone at a pace faster than it normally takes to amend a country's fundamental law. We must analyze two things, however. These four topics, which we said constitute the fundamental basis of the agreement on the constitutional amendments, did not emerge in the debates in the last weeks. The topics of the Armed Forces, the administration of justice, the electoral system, in sum all these topics, have been under debate over the past year and a half, which is when the peace process resumed with the Geneva Accords.

In this respect many sectors became aware of the need to change certain aspects of these four fundamental points, and a convergence of ideas or the formulation of a consensus has been taking place for some time. In this case, we can also return to the example of the similitary that exists between the agreement among political parties and the agreement between the government and the FMLN in Mexico. In analyzing the similarity of the agreements, we can see that it is precisely the result of the debates that have been held on these topics for some time now.

It is not that we have tried to come up with something at the last minute. These issues had been discussed by the Inter-Party Commission, as well as a wide spectrum of sectors that have expressed their view on the same. They had also been previously discussed at the peace process.

Although it is true that the reforms may have been approved more expeditiously than normal, it is because peace is at stake. We had to make this sacrifice. Our objective was not to hinder the peace process but to take advantage of what we already had, so we would not unnecessarily delay the attainment of peace, because this could have translated into more destruction and bloodshed in our country. We believe the argument that approval of the reforms has been quick is not valid in this regard. This is the result of discussions of more than one year and the need to take advantage of what we had—possibly the only thing that we had—to make the cease-fire come true in our country.

I would also like to take this opportunity to add someting else. When we began the peace process, many believed that someone had to yield something before the stubborn demands of the other. They did not think that this was a matter of calmly analyzing how could we gradually better our society, thus making the conflict—I believe that the conflict has no justification—even more unjustifiable, if you will. Regarding those sectors who believe that there is justification for the conflict, the peace process would allow us to correct the situations preventing the Salvadoran people from living in peace. In this regard, there is the perception that the government of the Republic is the only that yields to the demands of the FMLN. I would like to clearly state that we are not yielding to any pressures. What we are doing is reaching agreements that will be implemented once violence ends.

The government of the Republic demands that the armed groups of the FMLN stop the violence, lay down their weapons, and rejoin the political arena, if you will. The government demands that the FMLN peacefully participate, like the other political parties, in the political life of the country and that it peacefully ask for votes from the people, not with rifles. In this regard, it is necessary to attain, as the Geneva Accords state, previous political agreements that will facilitate the attainment of the cease-fire. This is why some people would think that we are only yielding and not getting anything in return. This is absolutely false. The political agreements will be implemented as soon as the cease-fire has been agreed upon. They will be implemented once we are confident that the elimination of violence in our country has produced the changes.

In addition, we must not think that we can begin a process of this nature with unflexible attitudes. We must all be flexible enough so as to know that consensus is best for the country, and not necessarily the imposition of our own ideas on some basic matters. This represents the framework of coexistence of all the Salvadoran people. Thus, we ask all sectors to be open, mature, and flexible so that we can have the consensus required to attain peace. This will permit all Salvadorans to live in harmony.

Perhaps somewhere in the country there are some sectors who may be opposed to some parts of the agreements. Other sectors may oppose other parts of the agreements. We must analyze the agreements as a whole, bearing in mind the outcome that we want, namely, peace in our country. This must force us to understand that we cannot continue to maintain different ideological positions and coexist with one another.

That is why, at this time, we ask all the sectors to calmly analyze all that has been done in the process, especially in the area of agreements. What we seek is a formula that will allow us to feel happy about the country's situation, even though not everything is the way each of us would like it to be.

This is not an easy process and this step, though it is important and has brought us truly closer to peace, does not mean that the problem has been overcome. We will continue to encounter problems because the solution to an 11-year-old conflict is not easy; it is difficult and calls for intense work, like that carried out this month in Mexico. I would, however, also like to stress the type of work all of us here in El Salvador should do.

At this time, I would like to publicly thank and congratulate the political parties that reached a consensus on the constitutional reforms. I would like to tell the Salvadoran people that the contribution of the political parties has been a cornerstone in overcoming this obstacle. The political parties, through their will to reach a broad consensus that would guarantee that this Legislative Assembly could unanimously initiate the process of reform, made it possible to reach an agreement in Mexico. I, therefore, believe that we should all be grateful to the four political parties that participated. I do not think that it is fair that other sectors, just because they did not participate in the negotiations, should now criticize those four parties. What those four political parties—Nationalist Republican Alliance, Christian Democratic Party, National Conciliation Party, and the Authentic Christian Movement—did was work for peace in the country. They have given us an example of what we should all do: seek consensus and not impose ideas. I therefore repeat: What they did was very important for the Mexico declaration to become a reality.

Once again, our thanks to the political parties for their efforts. We urge and encourage them to continue to put forth their best efforts to reach a consensus that will allow us to attain peace in our country.

It is also necessary that we congratulate the deputies of the current Legislative Assembly. We believe that yesterday's step was historic. For the first time in El Salvador, we have been able to begin a process of constitutional reform within the framework of the Constitution. This, I believe, should serve as an example for the future. Important changes in a society do not have to come through violence, they can be made amid peace within the law, especially when the desire for a good future for the country prevails. Likewise, I wish to congratulate and thank the deputies of the current Legislative Assembly who yesterday approved the constitutional reforms, or rather began the process of constitutional reform.

I would also like to address the FMLN. The recent meeting in Mexico must be a lesson to all of us. That lesson is: When we have national goals, such as the consolidation of democracy, the reconciliation of our society, and respect for human rights, when those are the goals we seek, then it is possible to reach agreements. When individual goals are sought, then the process is hindered. We believe that what we saw in Mexico fills this requirement. It seeks, and continues to seek agreements for the good of everyone and not of any one particular sector. When an ideological position is made flexible and a path is opened for the good of the people, then it becomes easier to reach agreements. Our government has been insisting that within that framework we can reach agreements quickly.

We are aware that in this meeting in Mexico, the FMLN also showed flexibility. We simply issue a call for this flexibility to continue. Perhaps not all that we want can be achieved. Nevertheless, what is necessary and what the rest of society will grant should be sufficient so we can all live in peace and calm. Therefore, we hope that in the meetings to be held in May we can count on the FMLN's cooperation, as in the recent meeting in Mexico.

Salvadoran people: We again reiterate that the only thing the government seeks is to comply with the mandate that you gave us in March 1989: That we do everything possible so that peace, harmony, and calm would come to our country and that, within that atmosphere, a process of development and well-being would begin in our country.

We do not want to impose our own ideas in this process. We want to continue with the sectors on the basis of consensus. We want to do this with the most representative sectors of the country, especially in these political topics that will in the end resolve this great problem. In this regard, we again ask for your support, and confidence. We are not going to violate the Constitution. We are not going to surrender the country's institutions. This should be very clear. This is reflected in the agreement on constitutional reforms. We have maintained and will continue to maintain our country's de jure system, but it is also necessary that we have everyone's cooperation. Everyone must work for peace. Now that we have taken

an important step, let us continue with new efforts to attain what we all want as soon as possible: peace and calm.

Once again I want to ask you to pray to the Lord for peace to be attained soon and for him to guide all of us who are involved in this process so we can give El Salvador the peace it so dearly deserves. With your prayers and everyone's efforts, we are sure that we will attain peace as soon as possible. Thank you very much and may God bless you.

Assembly President, Vice Presidents Sworn In

PA0205042191 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0310 GMT 2 May 91

[Report by Antonio Mineros]

[Excerpts] The new Legislative Assembly, comprised of 84 deputies elected for a three-year period, was installed today, 1 May. The various political groups enthusiastically attended the event; however, the mood changed when the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] announced that it would not participate on the new board of directors that will now have 12 members. PDC member Dr. Fidel Chavez Mena said that the Legislative Assembly's rules should be amended and he accused the Democratic Convergence [CD] of breaking the agreements made previously on the composition of the board of directors.

[Begin Chavez recording] Yesterday the party—the national directorate, deputies, and assistant deputies—unanimously decided that under these circumstances, the party could not participate as a member of the Assembly's Board of Directors. Therefore, Mr. President, I wish to clarify this situation. When you asked us to participate, we said we would give you an answer and we are here to give you an answer. We are here to tell you that we do not wish to participate on the board of directors because of the way it was selected. [end recording] [passage omitted]

At the conclusion of a lengthy debate, the board of directors was sworn in. Only three seats on the board, for one vice president and two secretaries, remain empty. These could be filled by the PDC. For the time being, the board is headed by Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] Deputy Roberto Angulo. The two vice presidents are: CD Deputy Ruben Zamora, National Conciliation Party [PCN] Deputy Ciro Cruz Zepeda, and Arena Deputy Gloria Salguero Gross. The secretaries are: PCN Deputy Ernesto Curry, CD Deputy Rene Flores, and Arena deputies Francisco Guerrero and Reinaldo [name indistinct].

Government Delegate on Talks in Mexico

PA0105150191 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2140 GMT 29 Apr 91

[News conference by Presidency Minister Oscar Santamaria, member of the Salvadoran Government Dialogue Commission, with local and foreign reporters at the Government Palace in San Salvador on 29 April—recorded]

[Text] [Santamaria] We are pleased to announce that the amendments cover the basic subjects mentioned in the Caracas meeting agenda. We have achieved a whole list of reforms on such issues as the Armed Forces, justice, human rights, and the electoral system.

As a result, the constitutional provisions on the Armed Forces must be modified. Public Security, which up to today was under the Armed Forces, will now be under civilian rule. This is one of the basic reforms included in the constitutional amendments. The other aspect is the role of the Armed Forces, both internally and externally. We are specifically referring to the defense of national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Now, we are also emphazing the role of the Armed Forces as part of the executive branch [as heard] in complying with orders issued by the other branches of the state, or the other public powers, if you will. This is the concept of what today we consider among the constitutional amendments that concern the Armed Forces.

On the subject of justice, we are now consolidating the judicial branch by establishing a new method of appointing justices to the Supreme Court and incorporating an organization that supports the judicial branch that is now given new powers, such as the National Judicature Council. From that point of view, the judicial branch will now be strengthened. We are also providing it with an autonomous and independent budget, according to what should be the functions of a judicial branch.

We have proposed that the annual budget of the judicial branch be based on the general budget of the nation, as part of the current expenses of the nation. The judicial branch will now be assigned 6 percent per year, as opposed to the 2.5 percent it now has.

On the subject of human rights, we created the position of the national prosecutor for the defense of human rights. He will have the specific function of working to guarantee and defend human rights in the country.

As for the electoral system—a basic topic in our political lives and an important component of democratic development, as it has much to do with periodic consultations with the people—we are creating a new electoral organization that will replace the current Central Electoral Council [CCE]. This new body will be called the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and it will carry out the functions of the current CCE and other new functions to be assigned.

These are, in summary, the constitutional amendments that have been considered, in addition to other aspects that have to do with the topics we have mentioned and of which you have learned.

We wish to advise you that the country's political representatives were also present in Mexico. The delegation was comprised of members of the four parties represented in the current Legislative Assembly—Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance], PDC [Christian Democratic Party], MAC [Authentic Christian Movement], and the PCN [National Conciliation Party]. Their arrival in Mexico came at a very important and opportune moment. We would like to clarify that it is not true that their arrival negatively affected the work being done. Quite the contrary, it contributed.... [changes thought] The politicians play a very important role in this negotiation. They are main characters. As a matter or fact, today they are discussing reforms to the Constitution. Their presence in Mexico was to let the negotiating parties know what role the political parties play in this process and what constitutional changes they believed could be made. They did this by talking to the two parties involved and to the UN representatives. They had a very open and sincere talk with the parties involved in the negotiations and they did not impose a document. All they did was advise the parties involved in the talks of the changes that could be made to the Constitution based on a study they had made. They added, however, that if the agreements reached at the negotiating table exceeded the reforms studied and considered by them, that they would be receptive to and flexible on the agreement reached at the negotiating table. Their thoughts on this matter greatly contributed toward the success of our in-depth talks with the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] representatives on the matter of constitutional reform. What the Legislative Assembly is doing today complements the work done by the representatives of the political parties in Mexico and our efforts at the negotiating table. This could further enrich the framework of the constitutional reforms.

We would also like to take this moment, and we already said this in Mexico, to thank the Mexican Government and the people of Mexico for giving us the opportunity to hold this lengthy meeting in their country. They provided us with every facility to make this meeting a success. To the Mexican Government and people, the Salvadoran Government thanks you for your efforts in giving us every facility—adequate climate and atmosphere—to work and reach these agreements.

In conclusion, we also wish to thank the United Nations for the role it played. As mediator, the United Nations played a very important role in guaranteeing the success of the meeting. As you can see, what was done is part of a joint effort.

These have been my introductory remarks. We will now answer any questions you may have.

[Moderator] Raul Beltran, YSKL.

[Beltran] Members of the commission, this morning the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] leadership said that the signing of these agreements was in part due to their presence, adding that this is their achievement. They said that the parties' arrival in Mexico City helped overcome—and I quote Dr. Fidel Chavez Mena—the stalemate in the negotiations. One month ago many groups in El Salvador raised a hue and cry as soon as they heard the phrase constitutional amendments. Political groups of different ideologies criticized and condemned the government's action and the mere idea of constitutional amendments. Did you feel pressure at any time during the negotiations? Could you identify the stubborn civilian and military groups that oppose the constitutional amendments which will become a reality in less than 24 hours?

[Santamaria] Well, first of all we will talk about what has already been mentioned, meaning the political parties' presence. I think that we cannot specify what contributions were made by a given political organization. Instead, it is a contribution from all the parties. The fact that they acted by consensus was very important because it allowed us to learn about their joint views on what they believed in and thought about concerning constitutional amendments. I think that if a recognition has to be made, it must be made of all those political parties that participated in the Mexico City talks. They made it possible to present a consensus on what they believe the constitutional amendments must be in the country.

Referring to the other issue you raised, the government wants to state that it has been working on this matter with a firm political will as been evident since 1 June 1989. The government's attitude toward the process has been positive. The government's position has been invariable and firm, despite a series of events which threatened the process. Great military offensives, violent military offensives have been carried out by the FMLN; certain groups have criticized the government and the government's political position—yet the government has remained invariable and firm. This proves that we have pledged to participate in a process and the government will remain loyal to its pledges. It is true that we sometimes receive constructive criticism, but criticism that only seeks to create obstacles will be ignored.

Honduras

Thousands of Workers Stage Antigovernment Marches

PA0105195491 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1643 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 1 May (ACAN-EFE)— Labor Day was celebrated today in eight Honduran cities with protests against the government of President Rafael Leonardo Callejas and international financial institutions that insist on draconian economic adjustment measures before granting credits.

In Tegucigalpa, some 15,000 workers participated in marches organized by grassroots opposition groups. The

demonstrators carried posters and banners demanding changes in the current neoliberal economic model.

Criticism was also heard during a demonstration organized by the progovernment General Central Organization of Workers, CGT. Rank and file CGT members accused the top CGT leadership of being "government supporters," and called for its replacement. Hector Hernandez, opposition labor leader, told ACAN-EFE: "We are protesting mass dismissals, privatization, inflation, new taxes and all the economic measures approved by Callejas on the recommendation of international banks," .

The antigovernment spirit that marked the 1 May celebrations was reflected in slogans such as: "One by one, people will strike at unfair economic packages," or "President, president, do not take away our food." During the march—which passed without incident despite military surveillance—calls were issued for a general strike and the creation of a workers' party.

Nicaragua

Former Contra Arrested in Chamorro Attack

PA0105031891 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0051 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Managua, 30 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The Nicaraguan police today arrested a former contra who participated in the 27 April suspected attack on President Violeta Chamorro in Managua. The police have also seized a van and an AK-47 rifle.

Government Ministry Spokesman Frank Cesar told a brief news conference that the police seized a white van used by the individuals who fired on the Intercontinental Hotel while Chamorro was at the hotel. The police arrested Carlos Garcia, also known as "Chino 85," a former Nicaraguan Resistance member, who is under investigation "to verify the identity of the person who opened fire."

"At this time we cannot blame anyone," Cesar said.

The AK-47, with a folding stock and two magazines, is being held by the authorities. Maximino Rodriguez Martinez, a former contra commander known as "Wilmer," is the owner of the van, although "he says that he was not in the vehicle, but is in the process of finding out who opened fire." "It has been technically proven that this was the van used in the attack," the Government Ministry spokesman said.

U.S. Asked To Investigate

PA0105202691 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] The Presidency has asked the United States to send investigation technicians to conduct an inquiry into the shooting incident at the Intercontinental Hotel. The government's request for U.S. guidance or participation every time something happens in the country is inexplicable. The possibility has not been dismissed that the request for U.S. technical assistance is but the result of Yankee pressures to influence the Nicaraguan police.

The report indicates that on 29 April President Chamorro's government asked her friend George Bush and his government to send U.S. agents to support the Nicaraguan police investigation into the 26 April shooting incident.

Anyone who has any information on the whereabouts of the white, four-door Landcruiser used by the individuals who fired at the Intercontinental Hotel can inform police by calling 97-200.

National Police Chief Commander Rene Vivas has urged the people to help police locate the terrorists who on the night of 26 April fired at several sites in Managua with AK-47 rifles. In addition to the Intercontinental Hotel, they also opened fire on the Center for Constitutional Rights, former site of Casa 50, near the military hospital. Shots were also fired near Plaza Espana and the Sandinist Peoples Army's 32d Brigade at the 9-km marker on the Southern Highway.

The police estimate that there are approximately 150 vehicles of the same type and make used by the terrorists on 26 April.

Among the distinguished guests chatting with President Chamorro at her niece's wedding at the Intercontinental Hotel on 26 April, were individuals linked to Somozism and the counterrevolution. Among those whose attendence was confirmed was Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, a former member of the contra directorate; and Francisco Urcuyo Maliano, who at that same hotel in July 1979 was designated by Somoza to be the heir to a crumbling regime.

As for the reasons for this criminal action, there are several questions, among them whether or not the perpetrators knew that President Chamorro was among the guests at the hotel.

'Let's Save Democracy' Issues Communique

PA0205031791 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 1 May 91

[Communique No. 13 issued by the Let's Save Democracy Civic Movement in Managua—date not given]

[Text] The Executive Committee of the Let's Save Democracy Civic Movement, after meeting in Villa Sandino, Chontales Department on 29 April, reports the following to the people:

1. We repudiate the criminal attack on our dear President Mrs. Violeta Chamorro on 27 April and convey to her our full support and solidarity at this critical time by reminding her that the civil authority she represents, as

president, is above any military authority, and thus, it is unconstitutional for any such authority to question her decisions.

2. That all slanderous news concerning groups rising up in arms again in various points of the country are inventions of Sandinist newspapers to maintain restlessness, produce destabilization, and intimidate recently elected authorities.

We also deny the existence of any rebellion in Region Five as EL NUEVO DIARIO has reported. In repudiating this, we, members of the Resistance, mayors, town councillors, deputies, and democratic citizens of this movement urge the Nicaraguan people to abstain from buying that pornographic publication on 4 May, when we will mark the birth of the Let's Save Democracy Civic Movement.

[Signed] Executive Committee

Argentina

President Menem Addresses Opening of Congress

PY0105203091 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 1 May 91

[Speech by President Carlos Menem to open the 109th ordinary session of Congress in Buenos Aires—live]

[Text] Honorable Congress, people of my fatherland:

I have not come to this magnificent assembly to argue in defense of my government. I have not come here in easy arrogance to irresponsibly point out successes and achievements. I have not come hear to listen to myself, or to say that Argentina has overcome its long history of decadence through decrees. On the contrary, I would like this speech to be the shortest and most direct speech that a president could make to this honorable legislative assembly.

I do not intend to give full details on each one of my government's specific policies, which you, honorable legislators, have received in summarized form in the report that goes with this annual message.

I have a different intention. I have not come to this Congress to simply inaugurate another ordinary session. I want all the people's representatives here, all of us present here, to make a sincere effort and to open a new stage for ourselves and our attitudes. I urge you, I urge myself, to stop for a minute to share a moment with all the Argentine people. I urge you and myself to eliminate all prejudices, speculation, and personal or privileged advantages. I want to speak basically and frankly, as I should at this very important moment.

I want to expose naked truth, without sectarianism. I will not avoid the sharp and meaningful realities that affect our fatherland. I clearly feel that this is a special, important moment. We are living in an era when Argentine democracy and the country's life are moving at dizzying speed, with events taking place at an unbelievable pace.

Many problems that were previously hidden or camouflaged by hypocrisy, authoritarianism, or manipulation are coming out at the institutional level.

I know well that many Argentines are surprised, anguished, and feeling helpless at this reality. Society is permeated by an indiscriminate suspicion that affects the credibility of leadership and its ability to solve basic, everyday problems. No one in the leadership can escape this judgment. No one can avoid accounting for their actions. Beyond the limitations, good intentions, arrogance, or miscalculations, we cannot—we must not—be deaf and blind to the gravity of the situation.

Argentina is looking at itself. The Argentine people are looking at themselves. This is essentially healthy, even though some defects and shameful attitudes are being seen. A nation built on pretense and deceit is a nation that cannot stand firm. A country based on lies is not a country; it is barely a myth. It is a gross facade built on false idols and populated by ghosts.

In the face of such a reality, I want to say at this honorable assembly that as head of state I have been, and I am, the main guarantor of the changes we are facing.

I will pursue this clarity with all my resources. I will encourage it in spite of anyone or anything. As president I have this foremost, supreme duty: to guarantee the disclosure of all hidden deals without considering friendship, political party, or political or ideological interests. I am ready to pursue this line of action without concessions, even at the risk of having to withstand infamy and slander. I will pursue it even at the risk of being irresponsibly slandered by those who are willing to mortgage our freedoms.

Each of us knows this well. A democracy cannot fear clarity or the truth if it really wants to be a democracy. Democracy is consolidated, it advances and grows, only if it can develop the proper defenses to confront reality. Not to deny it, but to change it, no matter how old or harsh this reality may be. This is the central struggle of Argentine democracy. This is the where Argentine democracy must show its strength and vigor.

Representatives, the Argentine people have demonstrated extraordinary maturity. This maturity proves that our institutional system is capable of creating conditions for more freedom, more development, and more clarity among the leadership. I must say that despite all the obstacles we have encountered in this turbulent and complex period, there is hope now because of the changes our entire community has experienced.

The seriousness of the crisis cannot overwhelm or distress us. The seriousness of the crisis cannot force us to abandon the fight. Argentine democracy is healthier than ever, as evidenced in the unending social, community, regional, or local demonstrations that bring concrete problems to the attention of the leadership.

My administration will attempt to introduce a series of deep changes within this context. We will do it despite the extraordinary dynamism of the international situation, the hardships of our internal situation, and the series of breakdowns in our administration due to the lack of complementation and cooperation. The latter factor is exclusively our responsibility as rulers. I insist: It is exclusively our responsibility because this government is not isolated from reality. It is not enclosed by intolerant dogmas. It does not assume to be the guarantor of an exclusive or expressed truth.

Honorable Congress, today, here and now, I want to say that the president is the first to recognize his government's errors, pending accounts, mistakes, and debts. I want to be absolutely clear, absolutely frank. I have come to speak clearly. My government has not shown enough austerity, responsibility, and solidarity during part of

this term in office. This was the result of an exaggerated dependence on internal forces which many times undermined our efforts.

My government was not able to establish an adequate system of reward and punishment to set an example for the rest of the community. My government has not had enough time to better design many of its policies. This is the result of the constant emergency situation in which we have been living, which has often prevented us from achieving optimum results.

My government has had to pay unavoidable political costs as a result of the serious situation prevailing when it was inaugurated.

My government has also had to pay unnecessary political costs, creating problems for itself which could have been prevented by more rigorous implementation of many basic measures. This is evidence which I cannot conceal because the national executive branch itself must be the first to be honest.

Beyond circumstantial government positions, as leaders we have been tested and are constantly being tested before the entire citizenry. I am not willing to tolerate anyone who avoids this daily democratic plebiscite. We have passed some of these exams; we have not passed some others. There are still many to be taken.

It would be very easy for me to deny these realities. It would be very easy, but I would be lying to you and to myself. I have come here today to fully assume all the responsibilities that can be ascribed to me as president of all Argentines. I do not want any privileges. I do not accept any prerogatives. I claim only my rights, and the primary right to which the president of the nation is entitled is the right to use his opportunities to correct mistakes.

I am humbly asking everyone to be clear about this. It is not a sign of weakness to recognize faults and to try to correct them. It is not a sign of weakness to learn from difficult experiences.

Weak are the proud. Weak are those who never consider the possibility of self-criticism or of having been mistaken. Weak are the stubborn as well as the obsequious. Strength does not lie in almightiness. Genuine strength lies in the wisdom to adjust course, correct deviations, and soundly review every difficulty.

Therefore, honorable legislative assembly, at this specific moment I want to commit and also call Argentine leaders to make every effort in the task of making all the required changes. This involves being closer to the voices of the Argentine people, both the people who voted for us and the people who did not vote for us but whom we nevertheless represent at this decisive time for our future.

I am also assuming the principal challenge of the moment: No one, beginning with our own administration, can indulge in the rhetoric of inaction, in mere protest, in the most comfortable contentious position, in the excuse of always seeking a problem for every solution, or in delaying urgent decisions, no matter how traumatic they appear to be.

No one can deny in good faith that this government has made decisions that had been postponed for years, that it has tackled long-standing problems at their roots, that it has moved along paths that were often advocated but never used, that it has disregarded its own political coexistence in order to do what had to be done at the right time, without resorting to comfortable demagogic measures that could be harmful to the country. [applause]

Therefore, in my third message to Congress I would also like to reiterate my strong confidence in the central course that I decided to follow in our government action. Each of you knows this central course perfectly well.

We can engage in a long debate on the difficulties in implementation. We can engage in a controversy over the steps that were taken. But it is also necessary for us to establish a consensus on the main strategy, on the guidelines, the only guidelines Argentina can currently adopt with a realistic view and a possibility of success.

We must seriously and honestly debate the national model that we are proposing and building for all Argentines. We must debate possibilities and the construction of these possibilities. In fact, everyone has already experienced —in his own flesh—the alleged alternative solutions which often appear to be miraculous but turn out to be unfeasible remedies when confronted by the national and international situation.

We are facing the challenge of a cultural change which goes beyond the economy because it influences all sectors of our community.

Such a change cannot be achieved without traumatic experiences, without problems, without measures that are often painful and difficult. I know this very well. Many Argentines are now wondering about the reasons for this effort, the possibilities it can offer, and its projection, the final objective toward which this difficult transition is leading.

On this subject I would also like to be absolutely frank. When I took over as president, I said that the first results of our policies would be seen in the second and third years of our work. I want to reiterate those words. I want to tell the Argentine people that we are entering the stage in which we will begin to reap the benefits of our sacrifices.

Consequently, taking into account that this is a crucial moment, and taking into account everything that we have already done, I would like to call upon everyone without exception to avoid wasting the immense effort we have made.

The president has not forgotten that the poor and marginalized people are the main targets of his action.

The president always remembers them. They are the essence of his government action. The president knows that he will not be successful if he does not build a more just Argentina, an Argentina without people excluded from well-being, education, health, justice, and dignity. [applause]

Therefore, honorable congressmen, I want to review what we are doing and what we plan to do to consolidate these principles. I want to base my speech on facts and also to avoid misunderstandings, because every government action is preceded not only by technical measures—this should be clearly understood—every government action is preceded not only by technical measures but also by political decisions. A firm political conviction endorses and safeguards the success of each area of our administration.

In the economic field we are establishing the bases for a sustained and solid attainment of equality and social justice. I repeat: We do not want a free but unjust economy. We do not want the freedom to be able to die of hunger. We hope to build a humanized capitalist system, a system in which labor and production recover all their value, as is stated splendidly by His Holiness John Paul II in the new encyclical that is about to be published to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Rerum Novarum. [applause]

We are not naive. A modern society cannot be built on the charm of the wild market nor on the overbureaucratic attitude of an almighty or allegedly redeeming state. For us the human being comes before the public or private sector. For us the human being is not a mere client or consumer, but rather the owner of essential rights which politics must respect and guarantee. Therefore, to achieve these objectives in today's Argentina we must reorganize the state and also reorganize the market. It is absurd to believe that a modern society can function without an authentic state or an authentic market, which efficiently complement each other and serve the peoples' common wealth, which is what politics is all about.

Within this context we have implemented the plan to convert the austral into dollars. This plan opens a new and decisive phase in our administration. If you will allow me, I wish to mention the great merit of all those present here. Despite the innumerable political ups and downs, we are providing an institutional framework for the deep-rooted reforms in our country.

I am here to express my thanks for the noble and patriotic attitude of this legislative branch, which promptly and appropriately responded to the government's initiative and contributed to passing historic laws for our nation.

I wish to especially recognize the parties of the opposition, which have always expressed their commitment to democracy. [applause] This is another example of a joint effort which especially honors our democratic coexistence and which should continue to prevail despite the electoral choices that stand before us.

Senators and Deputies: We are stabilizing our economy. We are eliminating the cruelest and wildest cause of social injustice: the hyperinflationary tax paid by the most needy sectors. Credit has reappeared in Argentina. Interest rates have dropped to international levels. We have started to gradually and in real terms readjust salaries. We have generated the conditions necessary to create new job opportunities through the reactivation of our productive apparatus. The opportunities for economic actors to speculate have been eliminated. People are no longer able to happily profit by taking advantage of the state through subsidies, privileges, or scandalous lawsuits. It is no longer possible to profit through abusive financial deals that distort not only our economy but our most profound cultural guidelines. The era of immense credit held by only a few and never returned is over. The era of contractors who amassed fortunes under the shelter of an inefficient state is over. The time to ignore smugglers of all sorts who choke the fiscal accounts with their criminal behavior is also over. [applause]

The adoption of a free market and the opening of our economy have brought an end to impunity for those who established monopolistic and oligopolistic prices, which have always harmed the poorest strata of society. The secret of a market economy really aimed at benefiting the people is to produce more, not charge higher prices. Profit must result from increased and more effective productivity, not from higher prices.

With the privatization program, the implementation of which must be improved, and clear contributions from you honorable representatives, we aim to eliminate the fabulous fiscal deficits that resulted from a public sector policy which allocated resources to mistaken projects and sponsored inflationary booms. We urge the honorable Congress to cooperate with us in the task of creating an appropriate framework to regulate the privatization program. We must protect consumers so the privatization program does not become a mere transference of monopolies from the public sector to the private.

The new tax law establishes the basis to punish the antisocial behavior of tax evaders who have so far gone unpunished. In today's Argentina, social justice begins with each Argentine dutifully paying his or her taxes. This is the first rule of coexistence with which we will force everyone to comply. We will severely punish all who break this law. The democratization of the economic power of a society also implies seeing an immoral citizen in each tax evader. [applause]

This is why we sought to simplify the tax collection system while stimulating production and severely punishing tax evasion, which is currently the worst symptom of a lack of solidarity.

The executive branch has submitted or is about to submit other equally important draft bills to Congress.

These bills will continue to require the attention of this important body. I am referring to the law on fishing, the law on ports, the law on negotiable obligations and the capital market system, the antimonopoly law, and especially the 1991 and 1992 budgets. The budgets will be debated during the current congressional season; they are a key request in the orderly and well-planned behavior of our administration. We also hope that debate over the allotment of public funds recovers the importance it should never have lost.

By listing these topics, I intend to call on your optimism. I am not offering a naive illusion that will disappear in a short while. I am calling for a certain, tangible hope. Despite all the difficulties, the lack of complementation, and the traumatic situations which still have to be overcome, we have begun a period of economic reactivation. We have begun a rational and selective reactivation that will reward effectiveness. This reactivation is supported by a healthy currency, and there are clear and durable rules.

We hope that over the next few months the idle capacity of our factories will be put to use so that our economy can really begin to grow by the end of the year. Our objective is to make the Argentine economy actually and substantially grow in 1991. This will create more job opportunities, more consumption, and a substantial reconversion of our productive sector toward competitive and integrated activities at the international level. This reconversion will continue to experience trying times for awhile but in the long run it will benefit Argentina as a whole.

To consolidate this growth we have to invest our savings in productive activities. We have to attract new external investment within a framework of stability. We also have to recover the country's ability to get international credits, based on our own clear efforts to integrate ourselves into the world with responsibility.

The idea of recovering our ability to get credits means putting an end to the negative flow of foreign currency and guiding international credit cooperation toward the priority sectors of our economic and social structure. This is how we are going to transform the decade of the nineties into the decade of growth, leaving behind the eighties, which represented a clear setback for the Latin American economy and its communities.

This is why I am asserting with full confidence that the recessive adjustments—the adjustments which became an end in themselves, the adjustments which always ended up being responsible for more inflation and more decadence—have come to an end in Argentina.

Regading the international aspect, congressmen, we are reinserting Argentina into the world, and especially into Latin America and South America through a very significant association with Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay, and with new integration with Chile and Bolivia. The Mercosur [Common Market of the South] will enlarge our international markets, provide greater opportunities for investment, and establish new possibilities for achieving continental development.

Argentina is becoming part of a new international order which should give preference to integration over discrimination and interdependence and regional blocs over the useless confrontations which are harmful to our interests. The Argentine Government is assigning priority to concrete actions which give impetus to economic development, not to rhetoric without real substance. The government is doing this through a sovereign decision, without any impositions, with the goal of fully defending the supreme national honor with dignity.

Argentina is beginning to regain the lost track; it is following the path of the world. Argentina does not expect to adhere unconditionally to new superficial ideologies, but it seeks to negotiate the basis for its definite development under better conditions. In other words, in place of policies which isolate themselves in simple demagogic speeches and immature reactions, we advocate a practical idealism. We all know that we are not going to enter the First World through a free concession from heaven or the powerful countries. We are not going to be able to create conditions for our development if we do not realize that politics is the art of the possible, and if we do not seek to take advantage of the new rules of the game in international matters. Only through the construction and consolidation of the great Latin American nation will we be able to establish an active and relevant presence on the new international scene. [applause]

Honorable members of Congress, we aspire to full social justice. We aspire to dignified work. We have implemented, however, an urgent and necessary social policy which has not transformed the assistance program into a goal in itself.

In the field of social action, in 1991 the community social program has spent $60 million on social promotion programs with municipal participation. We will continue to spend $12 million per month through a national and socially pluralistic organization. We have launched a food program to benefit 3 million children under the age of 12 throughout the national territory. This plan, which represents a $200-million expense for the government, is meant to bring an end to the cancer of child malnutrition which undermines our future.

We are also promoting actions to extend drinking water services to poor sectors. We have coordinated actions with the Argentine Army to satisfy the needs of 1 million inhabitants. So far this year we have sent $4 million worth of medicines to several provinces. We have signed another important agreement with the Armed Forces to produce medicines for public psychiatric institutions and poor patients. We also implemented a national vaccination plan and distributed 6 million doses of vaccines during its first stage; an additional 8 million doses will be distributed in the future. We extended the coverage of the mother and child program to the child's

second year of life. We also ensured the monthly distribution of 1.1 million kilos of powdered milk per month for the second half of the year, which will cost $30 million per month.

In the field of health, a strategic issue for the government has been the full normalization of 194 workers welfare institutions which will remain in the hands of their legitimate owners. In cases in which the government must appoint representatives to the board of directors of a workers welfare institution, fully reliable judges will make a strict selection based on the individual's records. There will be no friends of favorites in this type of appointment. This is a simple list of some of the measures that reflect the executive branch's commitment to an essential task.

I would now like to thank each of the men and women of the Argentine interior who have contributed their great efforts to our task. We are completely aware that it is now time to ensure fair distribution and equal rights for everyone.

Representatives of the Argentine people, we also have an important task ahead in the field of education. The main capital we must look after is our human capital. The executive branch has sent you two important draft bills. The first is the draft bill on general education which, for the first time in history, covers the four educational levels. Without downgrading the government's facilities and obligations, we have upgraded the importance of the initiative, creativity, and responsibility of the basic community, which is made up of teachers, families, and community institutions. We also sent up a draft bill that allows a gradual and agreed-upon transference of public nonuniversity education services to the provinces.

I would also like to announce that we will soon send Congress a draft bill to modify the state university income system, which is currently regulated by Law 23569. We intend to give universities greater financial independence, features to allow them obtain better complementary funds, and greater freedom in the rational administration of their funds. In recognition of education workers, I particularly congratulate the approval of the law on teacher labor-management arbitration boards, which represents an historic step for all teachers in the Republic.

I also want to recall another important draft bill that is very meaningful for all our youth, the one which establishes full legal age at 18 years old. The passing of this draft bill will be a symbol for a country that wants to incorporate a vital and passionate youth force capable of shaping a different and better reality.

Regarding the labor sector, and to honor the workers on this 1 May, I also want to ask for prompt approval of the new national employment law, which will be instrumental in modernizing the labor laws to adjust them to our productive needs and will promote the creation of new jobs. This law will also allow us to implement an unemployment insurance program, which will bring major relief to more than 200,000 Argentines who at present do not have stable jobs.

The executive branch has proposed two other initiatives, the approval of which we consider to be important because they will benefit workers: a proposal to amend the law on accidents at the work site and a proposal to amend procedural labor laws.

This is undoubtedly the proper occasion to convey my special thanks to the organized labor movement, which in its large majority has decidedly and courageously supported the deep changes to which our administration has committed itself.

Regarding the area of public services, I would like to state that, through the administrative reform, we are doing away with political opportunism and are laying the bases for a state apparatus that will be more capable of discharging its key, exclusive duties.

In the next few weeks the executive branch will implement a new administrative career system which will seek to modernize and give greater prestige to the various areas of work in the public sector through training, performance evaluation of employees, strict criteria for selecting managers from among several applicants, and the establishment of the much-desired administrative career program.

Furthermore, and as I informed representatives of the National Civil Service Personnel Union yesterday, the executive branch will submit during this legislative session a draft law on collective bargaining for government workers. [applause]

This initiative will place us at the forefront of Latin America in making truly historic progress in our policy of reforming the state, which takes into account the interests of the people and of public employees alike.

In the area of defense, we have made significant progress in preparing the legal basis for modernizing the military institutions. The process of transferring companies from this area to the private sector is also fully under way. We are seeking to restructure, reorganize, and rationalize our armed, security, and police forces so that they can be useful instruments for our national defense.

It is naturally quite clear to us that our military policy cannot be limited to a simple budget issue. We must rapidly adjust to a concept of national defense that is no longer in keeping with traditional hypothesis of conflict. This concept still requires, however, that our military capabilities be fully in place. We must do this with creativity and intelligent actions. For this heroic endeavor we call upon the Armed Forces, those which were the stalwarts of our independence and which have fully rejoined our constitutional system. [applause]

Honorable congressmen, I want to refer now to a key issue: The fight against corruption and the drug trade. These two issues have taken the form of seditious actions against democratic order because they affect the moral

core of our republican system and endanger one of our basic sovereign rights: that of providing our democracy with an essential ethical value not only in the eyes of the world but also in our own. Because this scourge directly or indirectly affects many Argentine political, union, military, business, church, and other leadership groups, no Argentine leader can fail to respond to the call to eradicate it.

Once again I want to reassert to the Argentine people that this war will be merciless. [applause] We will fight each battle with all our might and as if it were our last battle. This is a war that will be won with the law, with firm political will, with an indispensable and necessary transparency and with the participation of absolutely all Argentines of goodwill.

This war is not the sole responsibility of the national government. It is a war which also requires the support of the legislative and judicial branches and, most importantly, the support of public opinion. This opinion is expressed through freedom of the press and the unrestricted functioning of social communications, which we are going to respect at any cost and no matter who is in the way. [applause]

Through the new Justice Ministry, the executive branch is submitting to Congress several essential draft laws to establish the necessary effective tools for the steps we will be taking. The reform of our penal code, which my government believes vital, is still pending, although the government is proposing an overall policy for this struggle which will involve more than simple punishment. Within this context the establishment of oral penal proceedings will ensure speed and effectiveness in achieving an improved justice system.

We have also submitted a draft law to prevent drug addiction through the Secretariat for the Struggle Against Drug Trafficking. We also need to substantially improve Law 23737 on the punishment of illegal drug trafficking. Therefore I call on the imagination, honesty, and effectiveness of all specialists in this matter. The anti-mafia draft law to be submitted by the Justice Ministry is another initiative which we hope will contribute to the effective struggle against this scourge.

Brothers, I continue to believe that every corrupt person is a traitor to the fatherland. [applause] I would like to repeat this to make it clear: I continue to believe that every corrupt person is a traitor to the fatherland, and I am not willing to tolerate these kinds of traitors wherever they are, in whatever sector, whatever they are thinking, and wherever they are hiding. [applause]

I urge the full mobilization of our entire society, giving people the responsibility to make denunciations, to demand punishment, and to maintain control over their leaders. The only pact which can be made with corruption is condemnation. Despite this painful issue, which causes indignation and disgust, there is still room for real hope.

Of course, not everything is lost in Argentina, not all of its leaders are defeated or their wills broken. Not all Argentines are willing to live with corruption. Believing that means making a deal with defeat; it means assuming that our democracy is crippled when the times comes to settle the accounts of our society. No one can argue with undeniable evidence. Even with difficulties, delays, and starts and stops, our democracy is beginning to gradually show that impunity has definitely come to an end in the Republic of Argentina. This is the commitment for which the president of the Republic is even willing to die.

Honorable members of Congress, this is my last message to the legislative assembly before the congressional elections. I therefore want to take this opportunity to urge all Argentine leaders to talk and face each other with seriousness and responsibility during the upcoming electoral campaign. I urge them to leave superficiality behind and to get to the bottom of Argentina's problems, to debate concrete solutions based on concrete ideas, to think about the day after the elections, and to prevent an unbridled race of accusations, attacks, and attitudes which go against our democratic spirit. I solemnly declare before this honorable Congress that as president of the Republic I will not participate in the electoral campaign in favor of any party. [applause]

As president of the Argentine people, I declare that I have no candidates, that I do not support any candidate. As president of the Republic I am beyond the upcoming legislative and provincial elections because I was elected to govern for and together with all Argentine citizens, regardless of their political leanings.

This president is fully convinced that, the day after the elections, democracy and its institutions will be stronger than ever because they will have passed another crucial test in consolidating the Argentine Republic's constitutional stability.

I urge all Argentine citizens to fully participate in the next electoral campaign. I urge leaders to rise to their responsibilities. I am urging and guaranteeing transparency, regardless of speculation.

As I did at the beginning of my term as president of all Argentine citizens, I pray to God, Our Father, for calm, to listen and to be heard through unity and not through confrontation. I pray to Him for strength, because only those who overcome adversity are strong, not those who never stumble. I pray to Him for wisdom, to be able to turn each attack into a rapprochement, to answer each blow with a helping hand. I pray to Him for justice, because only the person capable of governing for all and with all has true power. I pray to Him for humility, to learn a lesson in each mistake made. I pray to Him for wisdom, to see in each criticism the opportunity to correct a mistake. I pray to Him for faith and hope, to not lose sight of the horizon even in difficulties. I pray to Him for the freedom to be able to decide and govern free

of the ties of rancor, arrogance, whims, or minor interests. I also ask God to bless our people, our fatherland, and each and every one of you.

I hereby declare the 109th period of ordinary sessions of this honorable legislative assembly open. [applause]

Chile

Government, Workers, Businessmen Sign Agreement

PY0105123891 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 May 91

[Excerpts] The government, workers, and businessmen have signed a framework agreement establishing that the minimum wage be increased to 33,000 pesos a month. President Aylwin asserted that this agreement is a positive step toward economic stability and improved social conditions in the country.

Government officials, workers representatives, and businessmen have signed this framework agreement that will benefit those who receive minimum wage. The document also provides other measures. [passage omitted]

The agreement will be submitted to congress and it is almost certain that it will be approved by all congressmen. The signing ceremony, which was headed by President Patricio Aylwin, was held at La Moneda. This agreement, which is the second to be signed by the current administration, establishes that the minimum wage be increased from 26,000 to 33,000 pesos a month, beginning 1 June 1991.

The government and the CUT [Cental Labor Union] have agreed to readjust the family allowances. [passage omitted]

[Begin Aylwin recording] We lawyers usually say that it is better to reach a poor agreement than to file a good lawsuit. Undoubtedly, this agreement does not entirely fulfill our expectations, but I would like to thank you for the sense of responsibility that you workers and businessmen have shown in the pursuit of this agreement which I deem a positive step toward our economic stability and the improvement of our social conditions. [end recording]

Colombia

CNG Attacks Town; Kidnaps Mayor, Policemen

PA0105191191 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] In the Charta municipality, Santander Department, public order was seriously disrupted when the Army of National Liberation [ELN] killed one policeman and wounded five others during an attack on the town. The ELN then fled to the mountains taking the mayor and what was left of the garrison. In Santander, the rebels are holding 32 policemen prisoner. Jairo Morales has the report for us:

[Begin recording] [Morales] Once again the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG] attacked the Santander territory. This time, the attack took place in the Charta municipality where 12 police officers stationed there battled the rebels for six hours. As the result, one policeman was killed, five suffered injuries, and six were kidnapped.

[Melida Peinaranda, wife of a kidnapped police officer] They destroyed everything, the policemen were surrounded so they surrendered; what else was there left for them to do? The others were wounded, the few that were left could not repel the attack.

[Morales] As a result of this kidnapping, so far this year, 32 military personnel are in the hands of the rebels. According to graffiti left behind by the rebels, the town's Mayor Ezequiel Suarez was kidnapped as punishment for his father's fraudulent economic dealings maneuvers. The CNG also used graffiti to pass judgment on the government and the Constituent Assembly, as well as to challenge the recently installed mobile brigade.

The mayor's office and the school were damaged during the clash; Telecom [Colombian Telecommunications Enterprise] headquarters, the police station, and the municipal administration building were destroyed. [end recording]

Peru

President Fujimori Delivers Labor Day Message

PY0105184891 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0107 GMT 1 May 91

["Message to the nation" delivered by President Alberto Fujimori on the occasion of Labor Day; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Workers, my friends, a very good evening:

Labor Day will be universally celebrated tomorrow. This is a very significant day for millions of men and women who, all over the entire world, devote their intelligence and their energy to the noble task of production. In our country, public servants and private workers, workers in the countryside and in the city, employees and those who are underemployed are carrying out this wealth-creating effort under the difficult conditions that are known to all of us.

We cannot ignore—neither will we ignore—the fact that salaries and wages in Peru have reached levels that are incompatible with a decent standard of living. Neither can we ignore that the social services provided by the state—and for which the workers are paying—are not only deficient, but in many cases they no longer exist as a result of this crisis.

Tomorrow, Labor Day, will be an appropriate day to meditate on the employment situation in our country.

The primary aspiration of the workers in Peru and anywhere in the world is to live with a decent salary or

wage that will permit them to save and to be able, with some support by the state, to build a house, gain access to some comforts of the modern world, and provide appropriate education—a profession—for their children. To this end, it is necessary to create wealth. It is necessary for the productive units of all types to create enough wealth to pay their workers well and to pay taxes to the state. This is not our country's situation today.

Investments are required to overcome this situation, to create employment, sustenance, and means for earning a living. And, certain conditions are required for investments to be made in Peru. We are creating these conditions.

My government has been working without respite since 28 July 1990 to create these conditions and guarantee national and foreign investments that will again enable work to exist in Peru instead of unemployment, hunger, and misery.

Peru has been isolated from the international financial community. This means that no country in the world or international organization was willing to lend additional money to our country because, as an insolvent debtor that does not honor its debts and that does not have any credit flow or money to be able to develop projects such as road reconstruction, the exploitation of the Camisea gas deposit or mining investments, Peru did not offer any guarantees.

The reintegration of Peru into the international financial community is essential in order to begin the reconstruction of our country. This will create an atmosphere of stability and confidence that will make possible economic and commercial reactivation.

So far we are on the right path. This was possible because of the government's serious management of national problems and because of the understanding of the Peruvian workers. The workers have understood that this process, involving fiscal discipline and hardships for some time, will benefit them later.

Nonetheless, in this stage of the Peruvian economy's recovery, we have taken some measures that will benefit the labor sector. For example, we have issued an important resolution on compensation for time of service so that workers can use this—their own—capital without having to wait for their dismissal or retirement.

Semiannual payments by the entrepreneurs will permit workers to create small companies, purchase capital goods, or avail themselves of a guarantee to build a house.

Peru requires that its workers be the basis for national recovery.

My government is calling on all economic agents, establishing clear rules of the game for all of them to produce, export, invest, and thus create more employment. This cannot be done overnight. We will recover slowly but surely. Then there will be room for true social justice of the sort that is possible when there is wealth. The other kind of social justice promised, as you know, by professional demagogues never becomes reality because it is always a promise laden with the resentment and frustration that they have been harping on for decades.

Peruvian workers must turn their eyes to other places in the world where the workers have turned their backs on the false promises they received. Workers in other places in the world were told that a paradise, a golden cage, would be built for them. Only a cage was built.

My government supports trade unionism in Peru and the championing, through the trade unions, which are the counterweight of the capital, of the workers' interests. Therefore, I have issued a resolution that makes trade unionism easier and more democratic. The workers—all the workers—have rights. And the decisions of the trade unions must begin with direct and universal elections. This is trade union democracy and we support it.

My friends, 1 May must not be a celebration directed toward the struggle of the classes, which today, I repeat, is not a banner anywhere. It must not pit responsible and patriotic entrepreneurs and workers against each other just for the sake of confrontation. Rather, without ignoring the labor perspective, this must be a celebration that contemplates the national participation of the labor force in the workers-entrepreneurs-state combination, which must be a permanent combination of efforts in a single direction, involving progress and integral development with justice in Peru.

Tomorrow, Labor Day, I hope that all Peruvian workers will continue accompanying me in this effort to create the conditions required for the existence of peace and tranquillity in our country, better wages and salaries, and well-being, conditions that will allow Peru's shortcomings to become, in the future, joie de vivre and joy in building a new country for our children.

Workers, my friends, many thanks and a very good evening.

Former President Grants Legal Powers for Inquiry

PY0205032491 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 May 91

[Excerpts] Chamber of Deputies President Victor Paredes said today that he was surprised to receive a letter from former President Alan Garcia granting him powers to investigate Garcia's alleged bank accounts abroad. Paredes pointed out that a congressional committee is already investigating this case and that, according to an article of the Constitution, he is not eligible to execute that power. [passage omitted]

The Supreme Court released an official communique on the case which states: Considering the fact that the media reported that Alan Garcia Perez granted a power of attorney to the president of the Supreme Court on an issue which is under investigation by the legislative branch, the Supreme Court states:

1. The president of the Supreme Court cannot legally represent any citizen without exception because the

court president must safeguard the absolute independence of the judicial branch and of his high position.

2. The judicial branch is regulated by the dispositions in Chapter 9 of the Peruvian Constitution and by its own regulations. Therefore, all court members must strictly obey Article 243 of the Constitution, because the judicial function is incompatible with any other public and private activity except university teaching.

3. The judicial branch has the power to carry out justice. To accomplish this it enjoys independence and at the same time respects the rights of the other government powers.

4. Any citizen can resort to jurisdictional organizations without exception in accordance with procedures established by law.

Lima, 1 May 1991.

Fishing Deal With Soviets 'Formally Canceled'

PY0205030691 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Fisheries Minister Felix Canal Torres has announced that in June the Peruvian Government will ask for international bids for a new fishing contract because the one signed with the Soviet enterprise Sevrybra was formally canceled yesterday through a notarized document.

Canal said that conditions to be met by foreign fishing companies will be completely different from the ones agreed upon with the Russians by the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance government. He said a new contract will be signed in less than six months.

Inflation Rate for Apr Lowest Since 1987

PY0205031091 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 May 91

[Excerpt] Felix Murillo, head of the National Statistics and Information Technology Institute [Instituto Nacional de Estadistica e Informatica—INEI], reported this morning that inflation totaled 5.8 percent in April. INEI studies on the consumer price index indicate that the April inflation rate was the lowest since July 1987. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Foreign Ministry Communique on Asylum for Rebels

PA0205040991 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2219 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Caracas, 1 May (EFE)—The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry issued a communique today in which it reports granting asylum to three members of the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG] who entered the Venezuelan Embassy in Bogota on 30 April.

The communique indicates that the guerrillas are "Daniel Aldana and Miguel Suarez, who identified themselves as members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, and Lucia Gonzalez, who identified herself as a member of the Army of National Liberation."

The note adds that "the Venezuelan Government decided to grant diplomatic asylum to these people and the Colombian Government agreed to issue the appropriate safe-conduct, according to international laws that govern political asylum."

In conclusion, the document states that "the people in question were flown to Venezuela and remain in the country under the protection of the Venezuelan Government, according to the rules and principles of international law."

The communique does not mention the possibility of peace talks between the Colombian Government and the guerrillas being held in Venezuela, nor does it state a date or place for such a meeting.

Colombian ambassador to Venezuela Nohemi Sanin thanked Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez for granting asylum to the three guerrillas and stressed that neither she nor Perez have had any contact with them.

Sanin did not mention the possibility of peace talks between the representatives of the CNG and the Colombian Government to put an end to the guerrilla struggle.

ICE President Fired for Criticizing Policies

PA0105224091 Paris AFP in Spanish 1605 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Caracas, 30 Apr (AFP)—President Carlos Andres Perez has fired Gabriela Febres Cordero, president of the state-run Foreign Trade Institute (ICE)—a position that has ministry ranking—for her criticism of government export policies, it has been officially confirmed. Official spokesmen today stated that Gabriela Febres Cordero will be replaced in her post by Miguel Rodriguez Mendoza, current presidential appointee on international economic issues, as well as Venezuela's principal GATT negotiator.

Gabriela Febres Cordero warned—in statements on 28 April—that non-traditional exports were declining at a rate of $196-$250 million per month compared to the 1990 figures, which could collapse the government's goal of reaching $3,000 million in exports by the end of this year.

The ICE president stressed that the most serious stumbling block was the "lack of an appropriate industrial policy." She said that the current policy "is based on a 'laissez-faire' philosophy, an excessive neo-liberal burden that is exclusively based on [words indistinct] programs for each industrial sector to obtain competitive products. [no closing quotes as received]